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St. Joseph rolls out five-year parks plan

Many of the items listed still need funding

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — More bike-friendly roads and walking paths, more dog-friendly facilities, better restroom facilities and improved pedestrian connections between city parks are the things St. Joseph residents would most like to see, based on a recent survey.

Those things, and more, are now part of St. Joseph's five-year plan for city parks.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan update was approved this week by the SJ Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and will go before the St. Joseph City Commission later this month. The plan takes into account the results of a survey taken earlier by hundreds of city residents. The proposed plan is available for review and public comment for 30 days.

Projects tentatively planned for this year include: Tiny Tots Playground improvements, Whirlpool Fountain improvements, parking system improvements at various parks, Maids of the Mist fountain rehabilitation, Howard Family Trail bridge repairs, Riverfront Trail improvements, Milton Park improvements, Tiscornia Park parking lot repairs, bluff

See **PARKS**, page A2

Don Campbell / HP staff

Joggers run along Lake Bluff Park in downtown St. Joseph on Friday morning. According to the five-year-plan for city parks, city residents would like to see additional benches, swings and picnic tables placed in the park.

Whitmer: Schools should offer in-person classes by March 1

By DAVID EGGERT
Associated Press

LANSING — Gov. Gretchen Whitmer on Friday strongly encouraged all K-12 schools in Michigan to offer in-person instruction by March 1 and earlier if possible, but she stopped short of requiring it saying face-to-face classes should at least be an option.

Many schools, including in large districts such as Ann Arbor and Grand Rapids, have been fully remote during the coronavirus pandemic. Teachers and child care staff are among residents who will begin being vaccinated starting Monday as the state transitions to the next phase of its vaccine rollout. Vaccines were first offered to health care workers and nursing home residents.

"The value of in-person learning for our kids is immeasurable," Whitmer said, adding it is safe if schools require masks and adopt infection-prevention protocols.

The Democratic governor last month lifted her administration's temporary ban on in-person learning in high schools as a spike in COVID-19 infections receded.

In December, at least 800,000 public school students – 55 percent – were in districts that planned to offer only virtual instruction amid the surge, according to a

See **WHITMER**, page A2

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Ali Hess of St. Joseph works out with personal trainer Caroline Woodbury this week at the Renaissance Athletic Club in Benton Harbor.

A resolute turnout

Fitness centers welcome people back, see typical bump in January, though pandemic has kept numbers lower

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

Fitness centers are a welcome sight to its new and former members, as the pandemic hasn't stopped many from pursuing their New Year's resolutions.

Chris Wagner, membership director of the Renaissance Athletic Club in Benton Harbor, said January always seems to be its busiest time of year.

"Especially with the weather being so cold out with the amount of snow we've gotten," he said. "We saw usage pick up last month with people not being able to run outside. I know people have pushed longer than usual in running outdoors due to COVID. But we have seen a lot of our members returned to our club, which has been great."

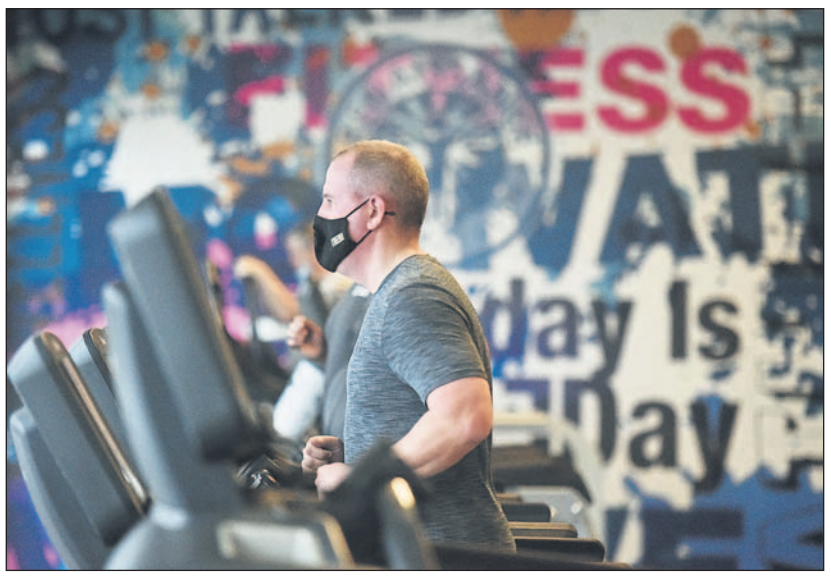
Being closed for almost seven months, Wagner said they've had some people who were nervous to come back.

If people are curious, Wagner said they've allowed people to stop by for a walk-through at the Benton Harbor facility to check out the RAC's new safety measures.

"People definitely appreciate that," he said.

When it comes to the RAC's attendance, Wagner said numbers have been down compared to last January. However, he said they've been the highest in months.

"It's hard to predict from one year to another, especially when you're dealing with a pandemic," Wagner said. "Thinking out loud, numbers are down everywhere. This is a common theme across the country. With us being in the Midwest, we are not able to offer as many outdoor activities on our turf field like we did over the summer."



ABOVE: Eric Culby wears a mask as he runs on a treadmill this week at the Renaissance Athletic Club in Benton Harbor. **LEFT:** Personal trainer Caroline Woodbury cleans equipment in between use this week at the Renaissance Athletic Club in Benton Harbor.

Despite this, Wagner said they expect to have a busy January, February and March.

He said members have told him they are glad to be back in the gym – some for the first time in six months.

"You can see them smiling through their masks. It's been nice to reconnect with members and hear people's stories," Wagner said.

To accommodate those who are just joining, the RAC is waiving joining fees for new members through the end of this month.

See **RESOLUTIONS**, page A5

'He's on his own': Some Republicans begin to flee from Trump

By STEVE PEOPLES and JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Donald Trump's steadfast grip on Republicans in Washington is beginning to crumble, leaving him more politically isolated than at any other point in his turbulent administration.

After riling up a crowd that later staged a violent siege of the U.S. Capitol, Trump appears to have lost some of his strongest allies, including South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham. Two Cabinet members and at least a half dozen aides have resigned. A handful of congressional Republicans are openly considering whether to join a renewed push for impeachment.

One GOP senator who has split with Trump in the past called on him to resign and questioned whether she would stay in the party.

"I want him out," Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska told The Anchorage Daily News. "He has caused enough damage."

The insurrection on the heels of a bruising election loss in Georgia accomplished what other low points in Trump's presidency did not: force Republicans to fundamentally reassess their relationship with a leader who has long abandoned tradition and decorum. The result could reshape the party, threatening the influence that Trump craves while creating a divide between those in Washington and activists in swaths of the country where the president is especially popular.

"At this point, I won't defend him anymore," said Ari Fleischer, a former White House press secretary for George W. Bush and a GOP strategist who voted for Trump. "I won't defend him for stirring the pot that incited the mob. He's on his own."

When the week began, Trump was without question the most dominant political force in Republican politics and a 2024 kingmaker, if not the GOP's next presidential nominee himself. On Friday, there was a growing sense that he was forever tarnished – and may be forced from office before his term expires in 12 days.

Absent a resignation, calls for a second impeachment on Capitol Hill grew louder on Friday. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress would proceed with impeachment proceedings unless Trump leaves office "imminently and willingly."

See **REPUBLICANS**, page A2

The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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High 33
Low 27

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WHITMER

From page A1

study by Michigan State University. About 453,000, or 31 percent, were in districts with an option of full in-person learning. Others had hybrid or other setups.

Under a 2020 law, Michigan schools that deem it safe to provide face-to-face classes during the pandemic must prioritize the option for K-5 students. In urging schools to provide as much face-to-face teaching as possible, Whitmer especially noted its importance for students who are younger, economically disadvantaged, have disabilities or are English language learners.

"Many students and families have struggled with remote learning and need opportunities for face-to-face interaction with educators, even if it is a hybrid schedule to allow for smaller groups to gather," she said.

The governor said she did not attempt to force schools to offer some in-person instruction because there are hundreds of districts and charter schools with differing circumstances. She also cautioned that a more contagious variant of the virus has arrived in the U.S.

Restrictions

The governor spoke a week before the scheduled expiration of a state health department order that has closed restaurants and bars to indoor dining and prohibited organized sports since November to curb the spread of the virus. The restrictions, which have helped to reduce hospitalizations, could be extended. Two key metrics – the case rate and the positivity rate – have increased in the past week.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman Thomas Albert, a Lowell Republican, said he could not envision starting talks with Whitmer over how to allocate newly authorized federal COVID-19 relief aid until she "shows more willingness to restore the economy and a sense of normalcy." Michigan is among just a few states to allow no indoor restaurant dining, according to the Michigan Restaurant & Lodging Association.

Whitmer said the funding would pay for vaccinations, testing and other needs.

"It's my hope that they're not suggesting now we should start negotiating away public health measures to keep people safe and hold these things hostage, because there are a lot of people in our state struggling" she said. "This federal relief is necessary."

The two-year legislative session begins next week, though it could be several weeks or longer before a supplemental budget bill is prepared.

Vaccinations

The governor and Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, the state's chief medical executive, again urged patience as hospital systems and local health departments accelerate efforts to vaccinate people, including those age 65 and older. Michigan's rate of first doses per 100,000 residents, 1,565, ranked 10th-lowest in the country, according to data posted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Friday.

Whitmer said health systems and county departments have been asked to use their inventory within a week of receipt. She also said her administration was seeking federal approval so additional pharmacies – not just national chains CVS and Walgreens – can help to more quickly administer vaccines in nursing home and other long-term care facilities.

LOTTERIES

Friday drawings

Michigan

Midday Daily 3
6-9-3
Midday Daily 4
2-6-8-1
Daily 3
5-3-0
Daily 4
3-3-6-4
Fantasy 5
04-05-24-32-39
Estimated jackpot
$401,000
Keno
03-06-07-08-13-17-18-23-26-28-29-36-38-43-45-50-52-56-62-69-75-78
Mega Millions jackpot
$490 million
Powerball jackpot
$470 million

Thursday drawings

Indiana

Cash 5
01-12-15-16-22
Estimated jackpot
$138,500
Cash4Life
32-36-47-55-57, Cash Ball: 3
Quick Draw Midday
04-10-14-22-30-36-39-42-47-50-51-52-56-58-61-62-66-67-71-80, BE: 66
Daily Three-Midday
0-4-9, SB: 4
Daily Three-Evening
0-9-8, SB: 8
Daily Four-Midday
7-5-1-8, SB: 4
Daily Four-Evening
7-6-9-5, SB: 8

Quick Draw Evening
03-12-17-20-21-25-39-43-46-48-59-64-66-67-69-70-71-72-75-78, BE: 64

Illinois

Lotto
06-11-23-25-33-46, Extra Shot: 4
Estimated jackpot
$3.35 million
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
08-15-31-35-41
Pick Three-Midday
3-7-0, Fireball: 3
Pick Three-Evening
7-5-9, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Midday
5-5-6-4, Fireball: 6
Pick Four-Evening
0-4-2-6, Fireball: 0
Lucky Day Lotto
06-17-21-26-36

– The Associated Press

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PARKS

From page A1

lighting updates and staircase repairs, Lions Park erosion control, and Riverview Park sanitary improvements.

Action items are a result of four broad goals: connect, preserve, sustain, grow.

Top priorities for the next five years (2021-2025) include:

- Construct accessible kayak launches and develop connecting trails.
- Enhance Whirlpool Compass Fountain area with restrooms and a shade structure
- Improve and enhance the Howard Family Trail, and extend it south, as possible.
- Improve signage and provide safe and continuous waterfront access, as possible.
- Add a universally accessible playground at Dickinson Park.

Survey respondents said the city park they most often visit is Lion's Park Beach, 79.6 percent; followed by Lake Bluff Park, 64.9 percent. Lions Park Beach was rated as the favorite city park, followed by Lake Bluff Park, Riverview Park and Tiscornia Park.

Residents said the outdoor events they most often attend are at Lake Bluff Park, and they would like to see more swings, benches and picnic tables placed there.

When asked what they would most like to see in the way of improvements, survey respondents overwhelmingly answered bike and walking trails, followed by free parking, covered seating areas, kayak launches, pickleball courts, along with a community pool for swimming lessons and swimming for exercise.

Respondents said maintaining the city's public beaches and parks is more important than acquiring new parks.

The city has 17 designated park and beach properties encompassing more than 200 acres.

Suzie Fromson from Edgewater Resources, which developed the five-year plan along with city staff, city officials, and Parks Board members, said public input was an important consideration in formulating the plan.

Input was also gathered from the schools, public safety, the Disability Network of Southwest Michigan, neighborhood groups, Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, the library, the Krasl Art Center, Southwest Michigan Tourist Council and St. Joseph Today.

Future plans for Lions Park Beach include beach nourishment and shoreline stabilization, adding steps to the Howard Trail, improving access from the bridge to the upper road and from the upper road to the lower road, and, possibly a basketball court, along with a life-saving station.

Possible plans for Riverview Park include improving the boat launch and adding a handicapped-accessible kayak launch, renovating park shelters, riprap improvements along the river shore, and adding disc golf.

City officials said once the plan gets formal approval from the city commission and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the projects and improvements will occur as funds become available.

Funding sources might include grants and philanthropy, generating more revenue through increased use of the parks, increasing fees for the most popular facilities and programs, increasing taxes through a special millage, encouraging private development to increase the city's tax base, supporting state-level legislation for a local hotel tax that could be levied for recreation, reallocation of existing funds, partnering with nonprofit organizations to share costs, or reducing services by cutting under-performing programs.

The 159-page Parks & Recreation Master Plan can be viewed in its entirety online at www.sjcity.com.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

REPUBLICANS

From page A1

President-elect Joe Biden isn't putting his weight behind the effort yet, suggesting there's not enough time between now and his Jan. 20 inauguration to pursue impeachment or any other constitutional remedy.

"I am focused now, on us taking control as president and vice president, on the 20th and getting our agenda moving as quickly as we can," Biden told reporters.

Trump still has supporters, especially among the many rank-and-file Republican voters and conservative activists beyond Washington.

On Thursday morning, there was loud applause and shouts of "We love you!" when Trump phoned into a breakfast meeting of the Republican National Committee in Florida.

"The vast majority of the committee is in full denial," said Republican National Committee member Bill Palatucci, of New Jersey, who attended the breakfast. "They're willing to condemn the violence, but without any reference to the president's role in any of it."

The president insists he did nothing wrong. He continues to tell aides, privately at least, that the election was stolen from him. Republican officials in critical battleground states, his recently departed attorney general and a series of judges – including those appointed by Trump – have rejected those claims as meritless.

Trump had to be convinced to record the video released Thursday night in which he finally condemned the rioters and acknowledged his November defeat for the first time, while initially pushing back at the prospect of speaking negatively of "my people."

He ultimately agreed to record the video after White House counsel Pat Cipollone warned that he could face legal jeopardy for inciting the riot. Others, including chief of staff Mark Meadows and his daughter Ivanka Trump, urged Trump to send out a message that may quell the talk of his forcible ouster from office, either by impeachment or constitutional procedures outlined in the 25th Amendment.

And while Trump acknowledged in the video that a new administration would take over on Jan. 20, he also said Friday that he would not attend Biden's inauguration. That makes Trump the first outgoing president since Andrew Johnson 152 years ago to skip the swearing-in of his successor.

Trump has no plans to disappear from the political debate once he leaves office, according to aides who believe he remains wildly popular among the Republican rank-and-file.

Lest there be any doubt, Trump's false claims about voter fraud in his November loss resonated with hundreds of thousands of Republican voters in Georgia's Senate runoff elections this week. About 7 in 10 agreed with his false assertion that Biden was not the legitimately elected president, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of more than 3,700 voters.

Leading Republican pollster Frank Luntz has had extensive conversations with grassroots voters and Republican officials about Trump's standing since the siege.

"The professionals are running away from a sinking ship, but his own supporters have not abandoned him, and they actually want him to fight on," Luntz said. "He's become the voice of God for tens of millions of people, and they will follow him to the ends of the earth and off the cliff."

And because of the voters' continued loyalty, elected officials in deep red areas must remain loyal to the outgoing president as well, even if his own Cabinet does not. In the hours after this week's riot, 147 Republicans in Congress still voted to reject Biden's victory, including eight senators.

The dramatic split in the party is reflected within the divergent paths adopted by the early slate of 2024 Republican presidential prospects.

Sens. Josh Hawley, of Missouri, and Ted Cruz, of Texas, embraced Trump's calls to reject Biden's victory before and after the mob attack. Arkansas Sen. Tom Cotton resisted Trump's wishes, drawing an angry tweet from the president earlier in the week.

Such attacks didn't carry as much weight at the end of the week as they once did given Trump's weakened political state. On Thursday, Cotton chastised Republican colleagues like Hawley and Cruz, who had given voters "false hope" that Trump's November loss could be overturned.

Nikki Haley, who served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations under Trump, tried to toe the line as she condemned Trump's actions this week during a closed-door meeting with the Republican National Committee.

She lauded some of Trump's accomplishments but predicted that, "His actions since Election Day will be judged harshly by history."

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★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center who come to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

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hp LOCAL & STATE

Berrien sees uptick in COVID cases this week

Health officials say vaccine rollout moving as fast as possible

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Berrien County saw an uptick in new COVID-19 cases this week, though hospitalizations held steady.

Nicki Britten, health officer for the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), said during a COVID update via Facebook Live on Friday that there could be several reasons for it, like people waiting to get tested until after the holidays.

"We still are very much in the middle of this; we still have transmission happening in our community. We still have a susceptible population in our community. We need to keep up with our preventative measures, but we do have this glimmer of hope," she said.

Berrien County recorded 389 new COVID-19 cases this week, compared to 277 last week and 344 the week before.

COVID hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland averaged at about 44 patients a day this week, the same as last week but up slightly from 42 two weeks ago.

Dr. Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, said during the online discussion that this was pretty expected with the slight uptick in cases.

"We're grateful it's been lower than it was, but still a little concerned it's starting to tick up again," he said. "We're hoping this is a temporary trend."

Percent positivity rates have been between 9 and 12 percent recently, which is down from where it was in late November, but still up from the 3-4 percent health officials would prefer to see.

"Sadly, we're still seeing one or more of our Berrien County residents pass away most days. It's not over yet," Hamel said.

Berrien County recorded 11 new COVID-19 deaths this week. That's compared to 13 deaths both last week and the week before.

The county also added 842 recoveries this week. Last week the county recorded 857 recoveries, and the week before that 974.

With deaths and recoveries, the county is at about 1,630 active COVID-19 cases. The county was at 2,094 active cases last Friday and at 2,687 the Friday before that.

In total, since last March, Berrien County has recorded 9,136 confirmed COVID-19 cases, 7,323 recoveries, 183 deaths and 714 presumed cases. That's an additional 50 presumed cases over last Friday.

Vaccine update

As of Thursday, 2,135 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine had been administered in Berrien County.

Britten and Hamel repeated Friday that the BCHD and Spectrum Health Lakeland are working to get COVID-19 vaccines out as fast as they get them.

"We're not sitting on vaccine," Hamel said. "The issue is the supply is not as high as the demand for the vaccine."

He called it a complicated balance of trying to save some doses for people's second doses, while also trying to schedule people to get their first.

Britten said the new phases that will be allowed to start being vaccinated on Monday include an estimated 30,000 to 40,000 Berrien County residents.

"As you can imagine, even taking a start into that, it will be awhile, and we need a lot more vaccine before we can make a meaningful dent in that number," she said.

Britten said that while they have been authorized to start vaccinating people age 65 and older next week, the BCHD is going to prioritize people 75 years and older within that group.

"A lot of that is because we know as age increases, the likelihood of mortality does increase," she said. "We want to make sure that as we have demand that outstrips supply, that the supply is going to the people most likely to succumb to COVID-19."

Britten said the BCHD can start vaccinating people in the new phases before it has finished the first one, but they need a little bit more time to make sure they have the supply before they can start scheduling people.

She said the BCHD will soon release more links for people to sign up to get the vaccine.

Hamel added that an application in MyChart will soon be available for Lakeland patients to sign up for the vaccine.

"What we're doing in our community is, to the best of our ability, save as many lives as we can, vaccinate as fast as we can and prevent as much disease as we can," he said.

Those without access to the BCHD's vaccine information website, http://bchdmi.org/1745/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information, can call the department's COVID-19 hotline at 1-800-815-5485, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, Twitter: @HPANewman

A STORYBOOK WALK

Don Campbell / HP staff

Families and children can explore trails through a storybook hike currently available at Sarett Nature Center in Benton Harbor. The walk from Ridge Loop to Upland Trail and back features 16 panels from "A Warm Winter Tail," by author Carrie A. Pearson and illustrated by Christina Wald.

2 women in custody after Dowagiac man shot to death

By HP STAFF

DOWAGIAC — Police in Dowagiac are investigating a suspected homicide, and on Friday charged two suspects in connection with the shooting death of a 43-year-old man.

Public Safety Director Steven Grinnewald said police were provided information Thursday afternoon about a possible homicide at Hillcrest Apartments earlier in the week. Grinnewald said that, acting on a search warrant, police found the man's body inside an apartment, dead from a gunshot. The man, whose name has not been released, lived in the apartment, Grinnewald said.

In custody is 39-year-old Deidra Tomlin, who faces a murder charge, along with six other charges of evidence tampering, drug possession, covering up a death, and illegal firearm possession. Investigators believe Tomlin was the victim's girlfriend, and that an argument led to the shooting death.

In addition, Jaime Loriot, 41, also faces charges, as police believe she assisted Tomlin to try to cover up the death.

Police told WNDU-TV that they believe Tomlin and Loriot tried to hide the victim's body in a curbside dumpster inside the victim's apartment, before fleeing that same night.

Both women are listed as Dowagiac residents. At the moment they both face extradition from Indiana because the arrests were made in South Bend.

Anyone with additional information about the case is asked to call the Dowagiac Police Department, 782-9743, or the Cass County Tip Line, 800-462-9328.

Dowagiac police were assisted by detectives from the Cass County Drug Enforcement Team and the Cass County Sheriff's Office.

Hartford area farms featured in National Geographic article

Effect of cover crops being studied

By HP STAFF

HARTFORD — If you look inside the National Geographic December issue you might see some familiar names.

In the summer of 2019, a writer and photographer visited Hartford to interview Van Buren Conservation District staff and several local farmers for an article on the Great Lakes titled, "Saving the Great Lakes."

"We were excited to be able to share some of the positive work we're doing that benefits both farms and water quality," said Conservation Technician Colleen Forestieri. "We're working with the University of Notre Dame to research the effectiveness of farm conservation practices, and that caught National Geographic's eye. The Great Lakes are under a lot of stress, but we were able to show that there's a lot being done to protect our beautiful lakes."

Last fall the conservation district used grant funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to provide cost share to farmers to install more than 2,000 acres of cover crops in the Hartford area. Cover crops are plants grown on farm fields in the off-season to protect and improve the soil.

"We're concentrating our efforts in a small watershed at the moment to see if we can see an effect on water quality if we really blanket the area with conservation practices," said Watershed Coordinator Erin Fuller. "The statewide average for cover crops is somewhere around 6 percent, but with this program, we have about 50-60 percent of agricultural acres cover cropped in this small area."

Cover crops, she went on say, reduce runoff and erosion in the off season – benefiting water quality – and also improve soil health and balance soil moisture, which benefits the farmer.

"We're really grateful we've had so many farmers work with us. It's not easy to adopt new practices, but they have taken that leap of faith and are beginning to see the benefits to their operation," Forestieri said. The conservation district has funding to cost share cover crops and other conservation practices in select areas for the next three years.

Three-in-one

3 ag conferences combined into one weeklong virtual event

By HP STAFF

BENTON HARBOR — Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Michigan State University Extension provided three annual conference targeted to individuals and business involved in the agricultural industry.

This year, however, those three conferences will be combined into one weeklong virtual event targeted to growers throughout Southwest Michigan.

The 2021 MI Ag Ideas to Grow With Conference will take place online, Feb. 15-19, combining Ag Action Day, Branch County Farmers Day and Southwest Michigan Horticulture Days.

"While this program will be offered virtually this year, our goal is to continue providing the same outstanding educational information to the public, just in a new platform," said Bruce Mackellar, MSU Extension educator in Van Buren County.

The weeklong educational program will feature a variety of tracks focused on livestock production, fruit and vegetable production, sustainability, soil health and irrigation, horticulture and home gardening. A track will also be offered for youth participants.

Each day will focus on specific topics with sessions occurring at the top of every hour. In an effort to support schedule variations, the horticulture and home gardening topics, along with the animal agriculture sessions can be viewed daily throughout the week. All sessions will be held using the Zoom platform.

"We are excited about offering the MI Ag Ideas to Grow With Conference," said Beth Ferry, MSU Extension educator in Berrien County. "We plan to offer a variety of educational topics and sessions that speak to the robust agricultural industry in Michigan and increasing interest in food production."

While there is no cost to participate, participants must register in order to receive access to the necessary zoom links. Participants are able to attend as many sessions as they would like, and will also be able to move around between tracks. RUP and CCA credits will be offered for several of the sessions. More information can be found at: https://www.canr.msu.edu/miagideas.

IN BRIEF

Niles cash store robbed

NILES — Police are continuing to investigate an armed robbery at a cash store in Niles Township.

Berrien County Sheriff's Lt. Joshua Sutherland said police were called just before 6 p.m. Thursday to the Cash Advance store at 1250 Bell Road on a report of an armed robbery.

A store employee said a man entered the store, displayed a gun and demanded cash, then fled with an undetermined amount of money.

The suspect, described as a black male approximately 5 feet, 9 inches tall with a slim build, wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, dark-colored pants and a face covering, fled west on Bell Road in a black SUV-style vehicle, police said.

The Berrien County Sheriff's Detective Bureau is continuing to investigate.

Suspect arrested in bomb threat to Michigan Capitol

LANSING (AP) — A suspect has been arrested in connection with a bomb threat telephoned to the Michigan Capitol building, state police announced Thursday.

The Charlotte man allegedly told a control operator at the Capitol complex that everyone needed to evacuate because the building was going to explode. The operator reported the threat to authorities. State police cleared employees to return after conducting a sweep.

The suspect was arrested outside his residence without incident by the MSP Emergency Support Team and Fugitive Team. He is being held at the Lansing City Jail pending charges that may be filed Friday, authorities said.

The call came a day after a violent mob stormed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to overturn the presidential election.

Lawmakers are not convening until next week. Legislative leaders and some other legislators have offices in the statehouse. The building is closed to the public except during session days due to coronavirus restrictions.

OBITUARIES

John Gilman

Sept. 19, 1938 – Jan. 3, 2021

John Edward Gilman went into the loving arms of his Savior on Sunday, Jan, 3, 2021, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph.

A family graveside services was at Graceland Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Trinity Lutheran Church, 5791 Sawyer Road, Sawyer, MI 49125. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

He was born Sept. 19, 1938, in New Troy, the son of the late Elmer and Eleanor (Atkinson) Gilman. He graduated from New Troy High School and proudly served in the U.S. Air Force.

On March 30, 1962, John married the love of his life, Shirley Goodline in Stevensville.

He worked at Bendix Corporation and then for many years at Weldun International, retiring from Robert Bosch in Bridgman. John was a loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. John loved being friends with everyone, and of course there wasn't a new gadget that John wasn't aware of or already had and he loved being on the computer with his friends.

Survivors include his wife, Shirley; daughters: Pam (Steve) Schmaltz and Julie Gilman, both of Baroda; grandchildren: Adam (Andrea) Schmaltz and Samantha (Ryan) Randall; great-grandchildren: Aislinn, Kai, Gabriel, and soon to arrive baby, Joy; brother, Richard (Jean) Gilman of Pensacola, Fla.; brother-in-law, Johnny Lentz Goodline; and several nephews.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman.

Joanne Borsos Averill

Nov. 14, 1931 – Dec. 26, 2020

Joanne Borsos Averill, 89, passed away peacefully at her home on Dec. 26, 2020.

Born on Nov. 14, 1931, to Valerie and Anton Borsos of Niles, she was the youngest of four children. After graduating from Niles High School, she attended the University of Michigan, where she met, and upon graduation, married Charles F. Averill. After four years with the U.S. Navy, Charles settled into a career with Whirlpool Corp., and they made their home in St. Joseph.

In addition to raising their three beautiful and extremely talented children, Joanne was very involved in the community, serving in leadership roles and singing in the choir at her churches, serving on the school board for 16 years, for many years as its president, working passionately with the Fort Miami Heritage Society to save the old Congregational Church and turn it into the Landmark Center, and working again to rebuild it after it caught fire.

Joanne was also an active member of the Krasl Art Center, Indian Hills Garden Club, Monday Musical Society, Antiquarians, AAUW, Mary Martha Circle, bridge club, and the "Beach Bums."

Joanne hated to cook, but loved to entertain. Her door was always open, literally, and she hosted all manner of travelers, from Brother Rice swimmers, and visiting choir/band/orchestra members, to the man who repaired the organ at the Congregational Church. She loved to travel, with friends, to Philadelphia and Charleston or with family to England, China and Peru, or if no one else would go, she would make new friends on a Smithsonian tour to Egypt. In her own words, she was "a very lucky lady."

Joanne was predeceased by her husband, Charles.

She is survived by her three children: Glenn (Cathy), Gregg (Carolyn) and Diane (William) Kennedy; five grandchildren: Palmer Averill, Ashley Averill, Samantha Averill, Paige Kennedy and Kate Kennedy; and a very large cat named Holly.

A memorial service will be at a later date, and details will be posted on the Starks & Menchinger website, www.starks-menchinger.com.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org., and the St. Joseph Public Schools Foundation, www.sjpsfoundation.org.

Those wishing to leave an online condolence for Joanne may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Adela Schultz

June 3, 1925 – Jan. 4, 2021

Adela (Adel) Cadra Schultz, 95, of the Village of Shoreham passed away Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, at Caretel Inns of Royalton, St. Joseph.

Services celebrating her life will be at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. The family will receive friends beginning at 1 p.m. at the church. Cremation has taken place and burial of the ashes will be in Ruggles Cemetery in Baroda Township at a later date.

Memorials may be sent to Sarett Nature Center, the Nature Conservancy, or Trinity Lutheran Church of St. Joseph. Arrangements are by the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Township. Please share messages, memories or photos at www.florin.net.

Adel was born near Shamrock, Texas, on June 3, 1925, the daughter of John and Eva Cadra, who were immigrants from the present day Slovak Republic. She got her basic education at Pakan Grade School and McLean and Shamrock High Schools.

Adel received her RN diploma from Scott and White Hospital School of Nursing in Temple, Texas, in 1946 and graduated from Barnes School of Anesthesia in St. Louis, Mo., in 1949.

From 1946 to 1953 she worked as a nurse anesthetist at Oak Park Illinois Hospital and in 1953 she began working as head anesthetist at Memorial Hospital in St. Joseph. She later worked in anesthesia "on call" in the delivery room until 1987.

Adel was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Joseph and a Bible student for many years.

Adel was an avid bird watcher. She traveled extensively in search of those wonderful birds – to the Pribiloff Islands of Alaska, Nova Scotia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad, and throughout the United States. She was a member of Sarett Nature Center, Berrien Birding Club, Michigan Audubon Society, American Birding Association, and the Nature Conservancy.

In years past she was a Cub Scout den mother and later, a Neighborhood Watch captain. She enjoyed swimming and swam regularly at the WCA. In recent years, she especially enjoyed going to the senior center and her friends were known as the "Beach Bums."

She is survived by her daughter, Kimberly Schultz of St. Joseph, son Konrad Schultz of Baroda; grandson Erich Schultz of Port Orange, Fla., nephews: Ronald Cadra, Mark Cadra, and Mike Barbian; nieces: Kimberly Adel Cadra Nixon and Pam Weatherly.

She was preceded in death by five brothers.

Raymond Edward Fulbright

Feb. 14, 1950 – Jan. 3, 2021

Rev. Raymond Fulbright, 70, of Niles entered into eternal rest at Memorial Hospital, South Bend on Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021.

Ray was born on Feb. 14, 1950, to Nicholas E. and Sally Ann (Goodling) Fulbright.

After graduating from Berrien Springs High School, class of 1969, Ray went on to attend Bethel College and Dubuque Theological Seminary. Ray worked for several years as a welder and industrial sales. In 2004, Rev. Fulbright received his call to the ministry and was the assistant to the pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Niles. In 2014 he would become the pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church, South Bend. In 2015 Rev. Fulbright would begin serving the congregation of St. John's United Church of Christ, Niles, as pastor, where he remained until his passing.

Ray had a variety of hobbies and interests including: feeding wild birds, boating, gardening, and the wind at his back when he was on a motorcycle. Ray also was a roller coaster enthusiast, a special bond he shared with his daughter. He also had a love for music, sometimes recalling the days he played in a band in high school, The Likes of Us.

On Oct. 25, 1969, Ray wed the love of his life, Sandra Brohman, at a ceremony in Arden, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Sally Fulbright; and his mother-in-law, Linda Ann Brohman.

Raymond is survived by his wife, Sandra Fulbright of Niles; his father, Nicholas (Gwen) Fulbright of North Port, Fla.; son, Shawn Fulbright of Rockford, Mich.; a daughter, Shannon (Mike) Brodeur of Hancock, Mich.; three grandchildren: Anthony, Madeline and Olivia; siblings: Jerry (Jill) Fulbright of Sturgis, Peggy (Tharon) Taylor of Franklin, Ky., Nick (Debbie) Fulbright of Three Oaks, and Keith (Mandy) Fulbright of Berrien Springs; Sandra's father, Earl L. Brohman of Berrien Springs; her sister, Sheryl (Jim) Kesterke of Berrien Springs; as well as many extended family members and close friends.

Funeral services to celebrate the life of the Rev. Ray Fulbright will be at 11 a.m., Monday, Jan. 11, at St. John's United Church of Christ, Niles, with the Rev. Janet Van Lear officiating. Committal in the Columbarium of First Presbyterian Church will be private.

The family will receive friends from 4 to 6 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 10, at Brown Funeral Home, Niles. A time of visitation will begin at St. John's United Church of Christ at 10 a.m., Monday.

Due to COVID-19 seating will be limited, state of Michigan guidelines will be followed, masks are required and social distancing practiced. Rev. Fulbright's service will be available to be viewed as we livestream on our Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/BrownFuneralHomeNiles.

Memorial contributions may be made in the Rev. Raymond Fulbright's memory to the St. John's United Church of Christ, 601 Sycamore St., Niles, MI 49120.

Condolences, photos and memories may be left for the family at www.BrownFuneralHomeNiles.com.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles.

George Daday

April 18, 1930 – Jan. 3, 2021

George G. Daday Sr., 90, of Watervliet died Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021 at The Willows, St. Joseph.

Services celebrating his life will be at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service. Visitation will begin at 11 a.m. Saturday, at the Fairplain Chapel. Cremation has taken place and burial of the ashes will be at a later date on the family lot at Riverview Cemetery.

Please share messages, memorials, or photos at www.florin.net. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Michigan Leader Dogs for the Blind.

George was born on April 18, 1930, in Benton Harbor to George and Alice Daday.

He married his wife, Betty Emde, in 1950 and together they celebrated 48 years of marriage before she preceded him in death in 1998.

George retired from Whirlpool after 30 years of employment and he also worked part time at Sears in appliance sales. George was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church. He was very athletic, enjoying bowling, golf, walking, and riding his bicycle. He was a very loving and caring family man who provided for his children.

His family includes his children: George Daday Jr., of Benton Harbor, Robert Daday of Sparta, Tenn., and Georgia Bonebright of Benton Harbor; his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; his caregiver and great-niece, Starla Swetay of Watervliet; and his many nieces and nephews.

George was preceded in death by daughters: Arlene Dull, Deborah Creamer Bush, Kathryn Sisk, Jean McDonald, and Janet Lindberg; and son, Stephen Daday.

Dee Ann Lange

Dec. 29, 1938 – Jan. 5, 2021

Dee Ann (Loeffler) Lange, 82, of Stevensville passed away surrounded by family on Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.

Dee Ann was born on Dec. 29, 1938, in St. Joseph, to Karl and Mary (Deitch) Loeffler.

Dee Ann married Gerald "Jerry" Lange on Jan. 8, 1955. They were married for 57 years before Jerry's death in 2012.

Dee Ann retired from Whirlpool after 28 years of service. Dee Ann and Jerry traveled the world and after retirement, spent their winters in Tucson, Ariz. Above all of the things that were important to her in her life, she loved spending time with her family the most.

A memorial celebration of Dee Ann and Jerry's life together will be at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Humane Society – Southwestern Michigan Yeager Family Pet Shelter, Caring Circle of Lakeland, or to American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, 411 Second St., NW, Rochester, MN 55901.

She is survived by daughters: Rebecah Martin of St. Joseph, and Deborah Lange of Plainwell, Mich.; grandchildren: Lindsay Martin, Whitney (Ben) Schueneman, Joseph (Andrea) Martin, Eric Johnson, and Karen (Chris) Brooks; great-grandchildren: Connor, Gavyn, Karly, Taylor, and Jameson; sister, Jane (Ron) Willit of Grand Haven, and sister-in-law, Judy Loeffler of Stevensville.

In addition to her husband and parents, Dee Ann was preceded in death by a sister, Kay Loeffler; and brother, George Loeffler.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services, St. Joseph.

Death notices

Joanne Averill, 89, died Dec. 26, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Andrew J. Blankenship Sr., 39, of South Bend died Jan. 6, 2021. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Arlington Briggs, 85, of Niles died Jan. 6, 2021. Hoven Funeral Home, Buchanan 695-2363.

Frank Brower, 73, of Watervliet died Jan. 8, 2021. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Service, Coloma, 468-6000.

Donald Cowgill, 64, of New Carlisle, Ind., died Jan. 7, 2021. Kaniewski Funeral Homes, Inc., 574-277-4444.

George Daday, 90, of Watervliet died Jan. 3, 2021. Fairplain Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Mary DePorter, 88, of Stevensville died Jan. 3, 2021. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Raymond Fulbright, 70, of Niles died Jan 3, 2021. Brown Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Gary Fox, 69, of Three Oaks died Jan. 6, 2021. Pobocik Chapel, Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

John Gilman, 82, died Jan. 3, 2021. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Sandra James, 68, of Coloma died Jan. 6, 2021. Fairplain Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Dee Ann Lange, 82, of Stevensville died Jan. 5, 2021. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Faith Rogers, 74, of Keeler died Jan. 6, 2021. Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, Dowagiac, 782-2135.

Adela Schultz, 95, of the Village of Shoreham died Jan. 4, 2021. Fairplain Chapel, Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Kathryn Arleen Teske, 88, of South Haven died Jan. 7, 2021. Filbrandt Family Funeral Home, South Haven, 637-0333.

Gary Fox

June 5, 1951 – Jan. 6, 2021

Gary Richard Fox, 69, of Three Oaks was called home by his Heavenly Father Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021. He died peacefully in the comfort of his wife's presence.

He was born on June 5, 1951, in South Bend, the second of two children born to Richard and Ida Fox.

He married Laura Ann Fry on Jan. 28, 1985, in St. Joseph.

Gary was a wonderful husband, father, grandfather, son, and uncle. He was very supportive of his kids and grandkids lives, interests, and professions. He never parted ways with his family members without them hearing him say, "I love you." He was well known and liked by many people. Music was a passion for "Gar." He loved getting together with family and friends to jam.

Gary had tremendous faith. He attended Real Life Community Church and enjoyed his close friendship with Pastor Zeiger. He loved reading, studying, and sharing the Bible and fellowship with others. He walked closely with his Lord throughout his life. He was unafraid to walk through his final days knowing that he would be meeting the Lord.

Gary will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Laura Fox, of Three Oaks; children: Richard (Katie) Fox of Buchanan, Ira (Marie) Fox of Buchanan, Autumn (Scott) Sullivan of New Buffalo, Emmaline Fox of Three Oaks; 11 grandchildren: Hunter, River, Stone, Gavin, Rain, Monica, Sheri, Nike, Symanthe, Rowen, Marty; six great-grandchildren, Mia, Oliver, Andrew, Stella, Jaydon, Gracelinn; his mother, Ida Fox of Three Oaks; one sister, Sandra (Howard) Jackson of Stevensville; one niece, Nicole Sailor; and one nephew, Charles Jackson of Nampa, Idaho.

He was preceded in death by his father; one son, Joshua; father-in-law, Bob Fry; and mother-in-law, Patricia Struble.

Family and friends will gather from 1 to 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11, in Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, 106 Ash Street East, Three Oaks. We will then process to Galien Township Cemetery for a graveside service at 2:30 p.m. Gary will be laid to rest with his beloved son Joshua.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Kathryn Teske

May 17, 1932 – Jan. 7, 2021

Kathryn Arleen Teske, 88, of South Haven passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, at Ascension Borges Hospital, Kalamazoo.

She was born on May 17, 1932, to Allen and Sally (Falk) Albright in Allentown, Pa.

Kathryn married Clarence Teske on June 14, 1953, at St. Andrew Reformed Church in Allentown. They shared 65 years of marriage before Clarence's passing in 2018. Kathryn was a member of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Haven. She enjoyed listening to music including Christian Praise and Big Band music.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Clarence Teske; son-in-law, Ben Schmidt; and her parents.

Kathryn is survived by her children: Tim (Ann Marie) Teske of South Haven and Sharon Schmidt of Plainwell; grandchildren: Angela (John) Janssen, Laura (Nate) Schubkegal, Gretchen Schmidt, Meredith Schmidt, Douglas Mayhead, and Rachel (Rick) Knapik; and 11 great-grandchildren, all of whom she loved dearly; and several nieces and nephews also survive.

Memorial services will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 15, with Pastor Travis Wilson officiating at the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home in South Haven. Kathryn will be laid to rest at Lake View Cemetery in South Haven.

Contributions may be made in Kathryn's memory to the Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, 06321 Blue Star Highway, South Haven, MI 49090. Kindly share your thoughts and memories on the family's online guest book at www.FilbrandtFFH.com.

The family is being helped by the Filbrandt Family Funeral Home of South Haven.

See more obituaries on Page A5

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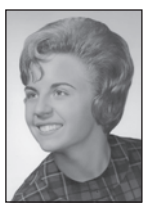
Faith M. Rogers

Dec. 29, 1946 – Jan. 6, 2021



Faith M. (Hardman) Rogers, 74, of Keeler passed away Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, surrounded by loving family.

As a result of the unprecedented conditions we are all experiencing, no services will occur at this time. A celebration of life service is planned for later. Faith will be laid to rest at Highland Cemetery in South Bend, Ind.

Faith was born on Dec. 29, 1946, in South Bend to Donald and Ruth (Shultz) Hardman.

She graduated from Eau Claire High School, class of 1965, and studied at Southwestern Michigan College in Dowagiac. Faith worked at Michigan Fruit Canners, Benton Harbor, in the accounts receivables department. Performing her role so competently and professionally, she was asked to relocate to Rochester, N.Y. to function as a head trainer. Her conviction to volunteer work and desire to give back to the community was inspiring. For over 15 years, she volunteered at the Van Buren District Library, developing a passion for Southwestern Michigan history and genealogy. She adored her granddaughter, Jacquelynn, and their vacation adventures. Faith loved camping, her friends, and keeping in touch with her Eau Claire classmates, as well as those who went to Daily School in Dowagiac.

Faith is survived by her husband, Barcey Rogers; daughter, Julia Wolf, of Plainwell Mich.; granddaughter, Jacquelynn (Dr. Brön Hedman) of Sacramento, Calif.; her nephew, Jerry (Connie Erickson-Loucks) Hardman of North Liberty, Ind.; four stepsons; cousins: Kevin Rush, Sue Rush, Diane Cooper, Doug Lantz, Dick Shultz, Howard Hardman, Marsha Worm, Bruce Hardman and Danny Hasley.

Faith was preceded in death by her parents: Donald Hardman and Ruth Virginia Hardman Springsteen; her brother, Craig M. Hardman; and two stepdaughters.

Memorials may be made to The American Cancer Society. Those wishing to sign Faith's memory book online may do so at www.clarkch.com.

Donald Cowgill

May 3, 1956 – Jan. 7, 2021

Donald A. Cowgill, 64, of New Carlisle, Ind., passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021, in his home.

He was born on May 3, 1956, in Michigan City, Ind., to the late David and Joan (Rabideau) Cowgill.

He is survived by his wife, Linda (Truhn) Cowgill; his sons: William (Lorie) Cowgill of New Carlisle and Joey of South Bend; one grandchild, Kamron Cowgill of New Carlisle; two sisters: Debra (Miles) Fisher of New Jersey and Dee (Spiros) Papiaoannou of Florida; a brother, Daniel (Becky) Cowgill of Florida; nieces and nephews: Katie and Kyle of Indianapolis, Rachelle of LaPorte, Daniel and Philip of Florida; and Linda's loving family (Truhns, Mensingers and Blackmores).

He was preceded in death by a brother, David Cowgill II, and a niece, Tammy.

Don served in the U.S. Marine Corps, loved working on our farm and enjoyed country living. He also enjoyed breeding and raising Australian Shepherds and Siberian Husky's. He was very good at making work seem to be more joyful and not like work.

A celebration of life will take place at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to Caring Circle of Lakeland, and flowers and memorials may be sent directly to the family. To send online condolences, please visit www.kaniewski.com.

Mary De Porter

Dec. 14, 1932 – Jan. 3, 2021

Mary T. De Porter, 88, of Stevensville passed away Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, at Serenity Shore Assisted Living, Stevensville.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services. Cremation has taken place and burial will be at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden at a later date. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Mary was born Dec. 14, 1932, in Nieczajna, Poland to Jan and Honorata (Sojka) Wajda. She married Edward De Porter, of Paterson, N.J., in 1970. They relocated to Stevensville when Edward was transferred by Continental Can Company. The two were happily married until his passing in July of 2012. Together they loved to take cruises. Mary also loved cooking and tending to her geraniums.

Mary is survived by her step-daughter, Ellen (Bruce) Skewes of The Villages, Fla., and sister, Emily Wayda of Boca Raton, Fla.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Jan and Honorata; husband, Edward; siblings: Peter, Elizabeth and Mickey; and step-granddaughter, Lori.

Sandra James

Jan 10, 1952 – Jan. 6, 2021

Sandra "Sandy" Kay James, 68, of Coloma went home to be with her Lord and Savior peacefully in the arms of her children on Monday, Jan. 6, 2021, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sandy was born on Jan. 10, 1952, to Harold and Doris Conklin in Benton Harbor. She grew up on a farm in Keeler where she developed her strong work ethic and resilience to take on any of life's challenges. Sandy worked for the state of Michigan for more than 20 years, managed a farm with her husband, and most recently co-owned a cleaning service.

Those that had the privilege of knowing and loving Sandy were blessed by her dynamic personality, strength during adversity, incredible sense of humor, and intense love. She was a strong and supportive mother that loved and cared for her children and she was a "second mother" to many others that needed her. Sandy was blessed with the gift of loving and providing peace and wisdom during any of life's circumstances.

Sandy is survived by her three children: Ben (Rhonda) Adams, Sherry (Brad) Wheeler, Nick (Zoey) James; her three grandchildren: John (Kimmie) Adams, Jake (Holly) Adams, Emily Adams; her great-grandson, Emrys; and many special nieces and nephews. She is also survived by so many of her wonderful friends; especially her best friend and business partner, Carmen Alonso; and her family who truly are a part of her family.

Sandy's family will be celebrating her life with an intimate memorial service at a later date. Arrangements are by the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service. Please share photos, memories, or messages at www.florin.net.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – Niles

Dowagiac – Girl, 6 pounds, 5 ounces, Kim and Jon Anderson, 9:20 a.m. Jan. 6.

Niles – Boy, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, Bethany and David Loveland, 5:27 p.m. Jan. 4.

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Baroda – Girl, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, Veronica and Pau Moala, 4:16 a.m. Jan. 3.

Benton Harbor – Boy, 7 pounds, 15 ounces, Tyesha Travis, 4:25 a.m. Jan. 5.

Berrien Springs – Boy, 7 pounds, 7 ounces, Sharday and Walter Williams, Jan. 5.

St. Joseph – Boy, 8 pounds, 4.5 ounces, Rachel and Robert Fuller, 8:55 a.m. Jan. 6.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

ST. JOSEPH — The following marriage licenses have been issued by Berrien County Clerk Sharon Tyler:

Alexis Nicole Dunn of South Bend and Matthew Mark Holub of Benton Harbor.

Melody Carrillo-Rico and Oran Reese Pettke both of Buchanan

Jamille Aaliyah Perry and Demon Terrell Thompson Jr., both of Benton Harbor.

RESOLUTIONS

From page A1

Sarah Lancaster, general manager of South Shore Health & Racquet Club, said a lot of their members have been focusing on both physical and mental health in the new year.

"We've seen some new faces already, which is great, especially in the aquatic center," Lancaster said. "This year hasn't been any different for New Year's resolutions."

Among the changes to the St. Joseph center has been the use of online group classes.

"Although we cannot run group activities in person, we've had people coming in individually. Starting fresh and meeting them online for group fitness classes has been a popular option as well," Lancaster said. "The biggest difference is not having those group classes to hold them accountable. It's always best to buddy up for new resolutions."

All of the club's online classes have been held via Zoom, which includes a focus on yoga and freestyle barre classes.

Lancaster said they would likely continue those virtual classes after restrictions are lifted. She said the intent is to still offer services to members who are not comfortable to return.

"The flexibility of not having to wear a mask and work out at home has made it a little bit easier," Lancaster said. "I think that has helped people. The biggest thing is to have that instructor you've had for years, helping you while at home."

Kayla Foster, marketing director for the YMCA of Greater Michiana, said she's noticed a spike in people coming in compared to previous months.

However, she also noted that facility use is lower than it was in January of last year.

"I don't think it will compare to years past or last year because a lot of people are not ready to come back to the gym yet," Foster said. "The consensus is people are happy with the safety and standards that we've implement since reopening. Our goal is make anyone who does come in to feel safe."

Both YMCA locations in Berrien County are currently waiving the fee to join, which saves up to $50, depending on the membership.

Contact: twittkowski@TheHP.com, 932-0358, Twitter: @Tony Wittkowski

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1996 – 25 years ago

The Buchanan Police Department has decided to turn in its Labrador retriever so it can afford three new video cameras for patrol cars. Police Chief Donald Yerrick said the cameras will help protect the police and the public by capturing any incidents on videotape that can be analyzed later.

1986 – 35 years ago

About 150 Boy Scouts are expected to attend a combined Sawasabee-Wabano District Klondike Derby at Camp Medron near Buchanan, according to Judge John N. Fields, Sawasabee District Promotions Chairman. The annual winter outing will feature competition in scouting skills and winter games among Scout troops from Berrien and Cass counties. "Winter Awareness" has been selected as the theme for this year's event.

1971 – 50 years ago

Registration for spring classes for experienced boatmen, private plane pilots and radio operators leading to service in the St. Joseph Flotilla of the Coast Guard Auxiliary will be Jan. 20. Flotilla Cmdr. Lee Hornack said the spring class is geared to the interests of those who, by prior training or experience, could be basically qualified U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary personnel. Hornack hopes to enroll people for the auxiliary's summer programs of assistance to the regular Coast Guard in patrol, search and rescue plus safe boating training.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Jan. 9, the ninth day of 2021. There are 356 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Jan. 9, 2020, Chinese state media said a preliminary investigation into recent cases of viral pneumonia had identified the probable cause as a new type of coronavirus.

On this date:

In 1793, Frenchman Jean Pierre Blanchard, using a hot-air balloon, flew from Philadelphia to Woodbury, New Jersey.

In 1951, the United Nations headquarters in New York officially opened.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, in his State of the Union address to Congress, warned of the threat of Communist imperialism.

In 1987, the White House released a January 1986 memorandum prepared for President Ronald Reagan by Lt. Col. Oliver L. North showing a link between U.S. arms sales to Iran and the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

In 2003, U.N. weapons inspectors said there was no "smoking gun" to prove Iraq had nuclear, chemical or biological weapons but they demanded that Baghdad provide private access to scientists and fresh evidence to back its claim that it had destroyed its weapons of mass destruction.

In 2009, the Illinois House voted 114-1 to impeach Gov. Rod Blagojevich, who defiantly insisted again that he had committed no crime. (The Illinois Senate unanimously voted to remove Blagojevich from office 20 days later.)

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy
34°	26°	33° / 27°	32° / 25°	35° / 27°	36° / 30°

Local Outlook

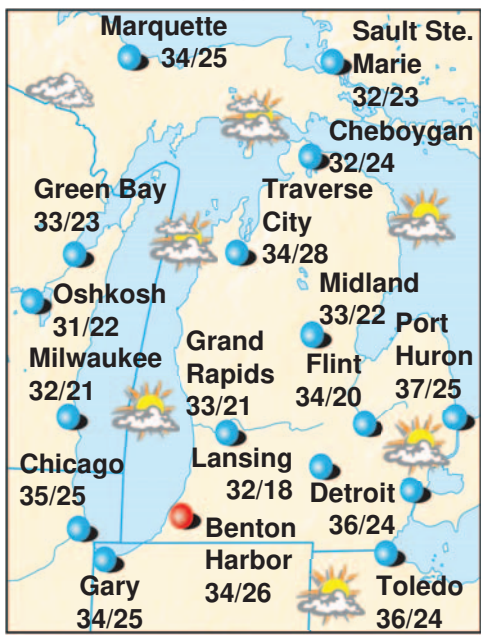
Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a high temperature of 34°, humidity of 68%. Light winds. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with an overnight low of 26°. South southwest wind 5 mph. The wind chill for tonight could reach 23°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 8:13 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:32 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 4:27 a.m.
Moonset ..... 2:23 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
1/13	1/20	1/28	2/4

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	34°
Low	26°
Normal High	31°
Normal Low	16°
Record High	57° in 2008
Record Low	-9° in 2015

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.76"
Normal for month	0.44"
Year to date	0.76"
Normal Year to date	0.44"

Air Quality

Yesterday 27
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

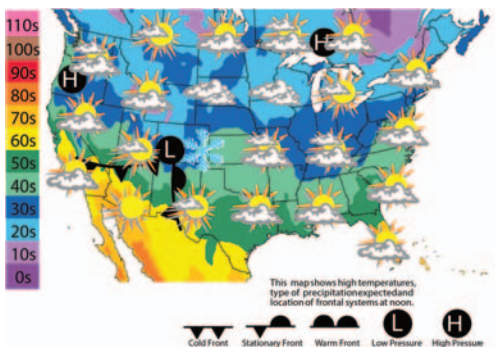
Weather Trivia

Weather occurs in what part of the atmosphere? ?

Answer: The troposphere.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Jan. 9, 2021



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NE wind around 6 kt. Sunny. Waves 1 ft or less. Water temperature 36 degrees. Tonight, NNW wind 6 to 8 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 1 ft or less.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy to mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s. Northwest wind 7 mph. Expect mostly cloudy to cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 30s. West wind 5 to 8 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be partly cloudy with highs in the 30s. Light winds. Expect mostly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 30s. West wind 3 to 6 mph.

Vaccine rollout hits snag as health workers balk at shots

By BERNARD CONDON, MATT SEDENSKY and CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

The desperately awaited vaccination drive against the coronavirus in the U.S. is running into resistance from an unlikely quarter: Surprising numbers of health care workers who have seen first-hand the death and misery inflicted by COVID-19 are refusing shots.

It is happening in nursing homes and, to a lesser degree, in hospitals, with employees expressing what experts say are unfounded fears of side effects from vaccines that were developed at record speed. More than three weeks into the campaign, some places are seeing as much as 80 percent of the staff holding back.

"I don't think anyone wants to be a guinea pig," said Dr. Stephen Noble, a 42-year-old cardiothoracic surgeon in Portland, Oregon, who is postponing getting vaccinated. "At the end of the day, as a man of science, I just want to see what the data show. And give me the full data."

Alarmed by the phenomenon, some administrators have dangled everything from free breakfasts at Waffle House to a raffle for a car to get employees to roll up their sleeves. Some states have threatened to let other people cut ahead of health care workers in the line for shots.

"It's far too low. It's alarmingly low," said Neil Pruitt, CEO of PruittHealth, which runs about 100 long-term care homes in the South, where fewer than 3 in 10 workers offered the vaccine so far have accepted it.

Many medical facilities from Florida to Washington state have boasted of near-universal acceptance of the shots, and workers have proudly plastered pictures of themselves on social media receiving the vaccine. Elsewhere, though, the drive has stumbled.

While the federal government has released no data on how many people offered the vaccines have taken them, glimpses of resistance have emerged around the country.

hp SPORTS

High-tech bobber fishing

Outdoors, Page B6

Twin City Sharks to debut next football season

Local 8-man co-op team includes Michigan Lutheran, Lake Michigan Catholic, Countryside

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

Lake Michigan Catholic, Michigan Lutheran and Countryside want their football programs to thrive rather than just survive.

The three will join forces next season to form the Twin City Sharks, a cooperative eight-man football team.

"All three schools football-wise have gotten to the point where the manpower is kind of unpredictable," Michigan Lutheran athletic director John Eggert said. "We kicked it around that we could help each other and make this win-win-win.

"I'm looking forward to some stability and frankly some competitiveness. I think we'll have the numbers to do that."

Catholic and Countryside have been in a co-op program for several years. They did not field a team this past season, as Catholic canceled much of its fall sports due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Michigan Lutheran has been playing eight-man football for nine seasons, but has not had a winning campaign and has often dealt with low numbers.

Countryside athletic director Derek Nestich said the move was about "survival and security".

"It's just numbers," he said. "Football's a big-numbers sport. It makes it more difficult when you can't have a (junior varsity) team.

"If you can alleviate that and say 'We have enough, we know we're going to have enough,' you can focus on the actual coaching and training and everything else that goes into it."

The Sharks will wear black and white, with purple and gold numbers to represent the schools' traditional colors. Home games will be played at the Kohn Sports Complex in Stevensville, where both Lutheran and Catholic have hosted games in recent seasons. Catholic will run the program at the high school level, with Lutheran in charge of a combined middle school program.

The coaching staffs will join forces, with Catholic coach Toby Riley leading the varsity. The athletic directors said the coaches have met and are looking forward to working together.

"They're as excited as we are," Catholic athletic director Neil Carter said. "Which is great, because you need the coaches to be on board with what we're trying to do. I think it's a win-win for everybody."

"Those coaches were drawing up plays at that meeting," Nestich added. "You see that general excitement that you want out of a coach."

See **SHARKS**, page B3

Area boys basketball coach Gondrezick dies

Former Covert, Countryside coach played in NBA

By HP STAFF

GONDREZICK

Grant Gondrezick, a former NBA player and local high school basketball coach, has died at age 57.

His daughter Kysre Gondrezick posted of her father's passing on her Twitter account Friday morning. Further details were unavailable.

Gondrezick played in the NBA briefly for the Phoenix Suns and Los Angeles Clippers in the late 1980s. His professional career included several years in the Continental Basketball Association, then took him around the world, with stops in France, Italy, Belgium, Spain and Argentina.

Gondrezick has been involved in basketball locally for some time. He was the varsity boys basketball head coach at Covert from 2007-09, compiling a 28-13 record in two seasons.

While at Covert, he pled guilty to a charge of mortgage fraud, and later spent time in prison.

Gondrezick returned to local coaching for the 2018-19 season, guiding Countryside to a 7-10 record. In 2018, he held summer basketball workouts in Benton Harbor that also involved distributing food to those in need.

Gondrezick's family includes many of the top players in Benton Harbor girls basketball history. His daughters Kysre Gondrezick and Kalabrya Gondrezick both starred for the Tigers. Kysre won Michigan's Miss Basketball in 2016, and is currently the leading scorer for West Virginia's women's basketball team.

Gondrezick's ex-wife Lisa Harvey was also a standout player for Benton Harbor, and coached the girls basketball team for several years. In 2015, she guided a team that included both of their daughters to the Class B state semifinals. Their son, Grant Gondrezick Jr., is currently a sophomore at Lakeshore.

Gondrezick's older brother Glen also played in the NBA. He passed away in 2009 at age 53 due to heart failure.

Notre Dame hires Cincy's Freeman as defensive coordinator

SOUTH BEND (AP) — Notre Dame has found its new defensive coordinator, hiring Marcus Freeman away from Cincinnati.

Freeman, who turns 35 on Sunday, had spent the last three seasons as Cincinnati's linebackers coach and defensive coordinator. He now will fill both those roles at Notre Dame.

He replaces Clark Lea, who left to take over Vanderbilt's program.

"As we looked into finding someone to run our defense, it was important to find the right fit for our program and Marcus and his family are just that," Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly said Friday in a statement. "He has had great success on the field, both running a defense and in his direct work with his linebackers. Additionally, he is considered among the elite recruiters in the coaching ranks."

Cincinnati ranked 13th among all Football Bowl Subdivision teams in total defense (324.6) and eighth in scoring defense (16.8) this season as the Bearcats went 9-1, ending with a 24-21 Peach Bowl loss to Georgia.

The Bearcats were third in pass efficiency defense, 14th in run defense and tied for 10th in takeaways.

Freeman will get a chance to face his former team next season. Notre Dame is scheduled to host Cincinnati on Oct. 2.

"As we looked into finding someone to run our defense, it was important to find the right fit for our program and Marcus and his family are just that. He has had great success on the field, both running a defense and in his direct work with his linebackers. Additionally, he is considered among the elite recruiters in the coaching ranks."

BRIAN KELLY
Notre Dame football coach

Before coming to Cincinnati, Freeman spent three seasons at Purdue. He was Penn State's linebackers coach from 2011-12. He started his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Ohio State in 2010.

He played linebacker for Ohio State from 2004-08.

"The work Marcus has done elevating the programs he has been a part of speaks for itself, but equally as important is the exceptional work he has done in building relationships with his staff and players," Kelly said. "Marcus was our top choice to become our next defensive coordinator, and we are pleased he and his family will be joining us at Notre Dame."

John Raoux / AP

Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh paces the sideline during the second half of the Citrus Bowl against Alabama on Jan. 1, 2020. Harbaugh has finalized a new, five-year deal with a base salary of $4 million per year. He can make as much as $8 million with incentives.

'Work has to be done'

Harbaugh has new, 5-year deal to stay at Michigan

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

ANN ARBOR — Michigan has decided to stick with coach Jim Harbaugh, finalizing a new, five-year deal that cuts his guaranteed compensation but gives him an opportunity to make up for the financial loss if he can start winning championships.

The school will pay him $4 million in 2021 with a chance to make nearly $8 million in the fifth year of his contract, according to the memorandum of understanding signed by Harbaugh and athletic director Warde Manuel on Friday.

Harbaugh can make $1 million for winning the Big Ten title and another $1 million for winning the national championship along with other bonuses he will earn if he can improve the team's success on the field.

"My thanks to athletic director Warde Manuel for the trust that he has shown in allowing me to continue to coach the University of Michigan football team, and to President Mark Schlissel and the Board of Regents for their ongoing support," Harbaugh said.

The deal ends months of speculation about Harbaugh's future. He could have potentially returned to the NFL or the school could have cut loose a coach with one year left on the seven-year contract paying him about $7 million per season that he signed after leaving the NFL.

"I continue to believe that Jim is the right man to lead our program in pursuit of Big Ten and CFP championships," Manuel said. "Our program didn't achieve at a level that anyone expected this year but I know those setbacks will drive the coaches, players and staff moving forward. Jim is a tireless worker and competitor. Following the completion of the season we talked for many hours on what it will take for Jim to lead and get us back on the right trajectory."

Harbaugh is now under contract at Michigan through the 2025 season with his new deal, which includes relatively affordable buyouts for both sides if they decide to part ways.

Michigan can buy out Harbaugh's contract for $4 million if it decides to fire him without cause after the 2021 season and the amount is reduced by $1 million in each of the following three years. Harbaugh, meanwhile,

See **HARBAUGH**, page B3

No. 23 MSU blows 17-point lead to Purdue

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

Purdue's Brandon Newman, right, goes to the basket but is blocked by Michigan State's Marcus Bingham Jr. during Friday's game.

Al Goldis / AP

EAST LANSING — Trevion Williams made a short jumper with 4.5 seconds left and scored 22 of his 26 points after halftime, rallying Purdue past No. 23 Michigan State 55-54 on Friday night after trailing by 17.

Purdue 55 Michigan St. 54

Aaron Henry, who scored 13 points, missed a runner from the left side of the lane just before the buzzer to seal the collapse for the Spartans.

Williams made 9 of 14 shots and 8 of 12 free throws to spur the Boilermakers (8-5, 3-3 Big Ten).

The Spartans (8-4, 2-4) missed 11 of their last 13 shots and connected on just 39 percent of their shots overall.

And, they simply couldn't stop Williams in the second half.

The 6-foot-10, 265-pound forward did not connect on his last attempt at the line with a chance to pull Purdue into a 54-all tie with 9.8 seconds left, and later said it was a fortunate miss.

The Spartans and Boilermakers both got to the loose ball after the missed free throw, and the visitors had the alternate possession arrow pointing in their direction.

Williams caught a lob pass on an inbounds play and took full advantage with a short, floating, go-ahead jumper.

Early in the game, the Boilermakers looked rusty playing for the first time in nearly a week.

Their game on Tuesday against Nebraska was postponed.

The Spartans went on a 13-0 run in the first half and were ahead 31-16 at halftime.

Michigan State's Joshua Langford scored seven of his 10 points in the first half.

Big picture

Purdue: The comeback in the second half can help the team gain confidence in the future, knowing it can rally from a big deficit against a ranked team on the road – and win.

Michigan State: The offensive woes include turning the ball over and shooting the ball poorly, a combination that is holding the team back.

Up next

Purdue: Plays at Indiana on Thursday.

Michigan State: Travels to play No. 5 Iowa on Thursday.

Stephen B. Morton / AP

Chicago Bears tight end Jimmy Graham, second from right, celebrates his touchdown catch against the Jacksonville Jaguars with teammates Javon Wims (83), Allen Robinson II (12), quarterback Mitchell Trubisky (10) and Ryan Nall (35) during the first half of a Dec. 27 game.

Saints brace for Bears team with 'nothing to lose'

By BRETT MARTEL
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Saints linebacker Demario Davis' largely productive NFL career also has had its share of disappointing, teachable moments.

Losing seasons with the New York Jets and Cleveland Browns helped Davis cherish recent postseason opportunities with New Orleans. And in the playoffs, Davis has experienced excruciating losses in each of the past three seasons – with the decisive score coming on each game's final play.

So as the four-time NFC South champion Saints (12-4) embark on yet another playoff run, starting Sunday against the recently resurgent Chicago Bears (8-8) in the Superdome, Davis is imploring teammates to narrow their focus and stay in the present.

"The only thing that we're promised is this moment. That is the only clock that you could be looking at," Davis said. "It isn't like, as a team, you've got so many opportunities to be here. The only moment we have is right now and it's all about what we do with it right now."

For the Saints, the stakes are high because their quarterback is 41-year-old Drew Brees, who has become synonymous with New Orleans during the past 15 seasons. Brees brought the football-obsessed community it's lone major pro sports championship 11 seasons ago, and became the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing. Brees will turn 42 on Jan. 15 and hasn't committed to playing beyond this season, so each game could be his last.

Asked if he'd decided whether this season would be his last, Brees said only: "I've made a decision about being the best I can be this week so we can go win this game so we can keep playing."

Brees is in his ninth postseason with New Orleans and 11th in his career.

Bears quarterback Mitch Trubisky, now in his fourth NFL season, is in the playoffs for just the second time after what was a turbulent 2020 for him.

Trubisky was benched earlier this season and has started just nine games. But the Bears went 6-3 in those games, with three victories in four games to close the regular season and sneak into the playoffs.

"We got nothing to lose. We know everybody is overlooking us," Trubisky said. "We've got to come in playing smart and play disciplined football, but that doesn't mean coming in being uptight. I think, go in and play free."

Tried and true strengths

While Brees has been the star of some prolific passing offenses that simply outscored opponents under coach Sean Payton, the veteran quarterback takes comfort in the fact the Saints have thrived this season in the running game and on defense.

The Saints' 2,265 yards rushing are the most since the Payton era began 2006. The defense ranks fourth and tied for the NFL lead in interceptions with 18.

"The best teams can run the football and play great defense," Brees said. "Those are kind of the two core things that you look at with any team that has staying power, that has the ability to play anywhere, anytime and overcome anything and sustain."

The takeaway

The Bears will likely need a dynamic performance from a defense that ranked among the top 10 for much of the season if they're going to knock out the high-powered Saints. The problem is that group isn't producing momentum-changing plays as much as it would like.

The Bears tied for 25th in the NFL in takeaways with 18 and were middle of the road in sacks with 35, 17th in the league.

Two-time Pro Bowl safety Eddie Jackson had no interceptions for the first time in his career after picking off 10 passes over his first three seasons. Khalil Mack, a three-time All-Pro, had nine sacks – his second straight year in single digits. And Robert Quinn had just two sacks, down from 11 ½ for Dallas last season.

"It's just one of those years," safety Tashaun Gipson said. "Sometimes you might have a year where everything is clicking and every single pass that touches your palms, you catch, and then there's years like this."

Dynamic trio

Brees, receiver Michael Thomas and running back Alvin Kamara could all be back on the field together on Sunday – something circumstances have largely prevented this season. Thomas has missed nine games, largely because of an ankle injury. Brees has missed four games with rib and lung issues. Kamara was out last week because of COVID-19.

They haven't all played together since Brees was injured in Week 10.

"That's hard to believe," Brees said. "I'm excited to have Mike back. Excited for Alvin with what he's gone through recently, and just for our whole squad."

While Thomas, the 2019 AP Offensive Player of the Year, has returned to practice, Kamara is not scheduled to return to the team until game day and won't practice all week.

But Brees insisted that "Alvin's going to be just fine."

Eying A-Rob

Bears star receiver Allen Robinson went from matching a career high with 10 receptions in a win over Jacksonville to catching a season-low two passes for 37 yards in the loss to Green Bay last week.

Considering his dominant form for much of the season, the Bears would like to get him more involved – if he's healthy. The Bears listed Robinson as missing some practice time this week because of a hamstring injury.

Robinson's 102 receptions this season were a career high. And his 1,250 yards were second only to the 1,400 he had with Jacksonville in his 2015 Pro Bowl season – his second year in the NFL.

"I trust in the plan that they have, that they're going to put together," Robinson said. "It's just my job to execute."

Donald, Kelce unanimous AP All-Pros

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Dynamic defensive star Aaron Donald and unstoppable tight end Travis Kelce were unanimous choices Friday for The Associated Press NFL All-Pro Team.

Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers was selected for the third time, finishing ahead of Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes in voting from a nationwide panel of 50 media members who regularly cover the league. Last season's Super Bowl MVP shared second-team honors with Josh Allen of Buffalo.

Tennessee running back Derrick Henry, who ran for 2,027 yards to win his second consecutive rushing title, was named All-Pro for the first time after leading the AFC South champion Titans to their first division title in 12 years.

"Very consistent, very durable, very impressive," coach Mike Vrabel said of the NFL's first winner of back-to-back rushing titles since Hall of Famer LaDainian Tomlinson in 2006-07.

Donald, who has helped the Los Angeles Rams to the top-ranked defense in the NFL, earned his sixth All-Pro selection. It was the third for Kansas City's record-setting Kelce.

"I think the best display of greatness is making people around you better," Rams coach Sean McVay said of Donald. "And that's exactly what he does, by the way he influences them every single week."

Joining Donald and Kelce were 15 players returning to the squad, and 14 newcomers. Seattle linebacker Bobby Wagner also made his sixth squad.

Kansas City receiver Tyreek Hill is now a three-time All-Pro along with Rodgers, among the favorites to win MVP after guiding the Packers (13-3) to the top seed in the NFC.

Joining Henry as first-time choices among skill players were Buffalo wideout Stefon Diggs, who led the NFL in catches and yards receiving, and Rodgers' favorite target, Davante Adams.

Diggs was traded by Minnesota to Buffalo in the offseason and made a huge impact as the Bills won their first AFC East title in 25 years.

"For me, it was just in whatever situation I was going to be put in or chosen in, I was just going to embrace," said Diggs, who finished the regular season with 127 catches for 1,535 yards and eight touchdowns.

The Packers and Colts led all teams with four All-Pros apiece. Green Bay left tackle David Bakhtiari, who is out for the playoffs after injuring a knee in practice during the final week of the regular season, made it for the second time. Center Corey Linsley was a first-time selection.

Indianapolis has interior lineman DeForest Buckner and linebacker Darius Leonard on the defense, left guard Quenton Nelson on offense, and George Odum as the special teamer. Nelson is a three-time All-Pro, Leonard a double selection, while Buckner and Odum made it for the first time.

Rounding out the offense were Cleveland right tackle Jack Conklin (second selection), and Washington right guard Brandon Scherff (first).

Also on defense were edge rushers T.J. Watt, the NFL's sacks leader for Pittsburgh who is on his second All-Pro Team, and newcomer Myles Garrett of Cleveland; San Francisco linebacker Fred Warner (first selection); cornerbacks Xavien Howard (first) of Miami, the league's interception leader, and Jalen Ramsey (second) of the Rams; and safeties Tyrann Mathieu (third) of Kansas City, Minkah Fitzpatrick of Pittsburgh and Budda Baker of Arizona, both for the second time. There was a tie between Fitzpatrick and Baker for the second safety spot.

Examining Nagy's mark on the Bears' mercurial 8-8 season is a complicated task

By COLLEEN KANE
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

On Dec. 7, Chicago Bears coach Matt Nagy sat down for his Monday morning Zoom call with the media after a disastrous loss to the Detroit Lions and fielded questions about his job security.

The Bears' losing streak had reached six games, and changes to the play caller and the quarterback initially failed to pull them out of the slump.

Job statuses at Halas Hall were in question.

Exactly one month later, Nagy is preparing for the Bears' wild-card-round game against the New Orleans Saints on Sunday at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Several circumstances broke the Bears' way to make them just the third team since 1970 to make the playoffs after a six-game losing streak – a convergence of an easy late-season schedule, some offensive progress under quarterback Mitch Trubisky and a two-game Arizona Cardinals losing streak to end the season.

After a wild year that has included COVID-19 obstacles, a quarterback conundrum and several big emotional swings, Nagy has a chance to earn his first playoff victory in his three years as a head coach – a win that seemingly would finally put to bed the job security talk this season.

When asked if he received job assurances from above after the Bears secured their second playoff berth in three seasons despite a rough loss to the Green Bay Packers, Nagy said he was focused only on this week's task.

After all, a win over the Saints would put a positive spin on a mercurial 8-8 season, one Nagy acknowledged was a contrast to the 12-4 joy ride that resulted in the Bears' 2018 playoff berth and his NFL Coach of the Year billing.

"What I've learned as a head coach is that it's not always going to be perfect, and there's going to be tough times," Nagy said Wednesday. "And so how do you handle those tough times? And that's where I think you lean on the people that you started it with. ... (General manager Ryan Pace) is the first one in my corner that has my back that is there to try and help and support. …

"The players going through that six-game losing streak have been unreal, and they have shown the trust and support they have in coaches. They have proven it by winning three and fighting to get back into it. I've learned as a coach that the belief in people that believe in you goes a long way. And I think that's powerful."

Examining what to believe in from Nagy's second straight .500 season is a complicated task given the highs and lows of a most unusual year.

As 8-8 might suggest, the many points of optimism also are met with negatives. For all of the high marks Nagy gets for his team's handling of COVID-19 precautions and sticking together during "tough times," there are questions about his struggles to get his offense and quarterback in a groove after three seasons.

And that starts with the Bears' December run for a playoff berth – and why it was necessary in the first place.

Two days after the loss to the Lions that brought up so many questions about the Bears' future, Nagy gave his players index cards with a timestamp reading Jan. 3, 2021, 7 p.m. The gesture was meant to remind his team what they were playing for over the next month – a chance to learn their playoff opponent at that time.

Some might construe the cards as a gimmick, but wide receiver Allen Robinson hung his in his locker, confident the Bears had what it took to make the message count.

Robinson talked mostly of his teammates as the leaders, but Nagy as the head coach of the Bears fosters some of that positivity. The Bears responded by hammering the Houston Texans 36-7 before victories over the Minnesota Vikings and Jacksonville Jaguars – and tight end Jimmy Graham gave credit to the coach.

"Coach Nagy's done everything he can to get these wins and to get us back on the winning track," Graham said. "Those six weeks were extremely tough for us, but you know, talk about character building and talk about a coaching staff that never gave up. I can't attest to other coaching staffs, but you know, how they handled that internally and still believed in and still leaned on the players, is special."

Of course, the problem with focusing on the Bears' three-game winning streak is that it ignores the initial hole. The Bears frittered away a 5-1 record, and each loss in the team's longest losing streak since 2002 felt more astounding than the last.

The heart of the problems over the first four games of the skid was that the union with Nick Foles – the quarterback Pace and Nagy decided would elevate the offense above the level Trubisky was operating it at – was a mess.

Over those four losses, behind a shuffling offensive line, Foles completed 67 percent of passes with four touchdowns, four interceptions, 14 sacks and an 81.6 passer rating. The running game was virtually nonexistent in a few of the games. The Bears averaged 16.7 points per game in Foles' seven starts. And Nagy and the Bears frequently talked about finding their identity – midway through Nagy's third season.

To be fair, Nagy dived into finding fixes.

He handed off play calling to offensive coordinator Bill Lazor – an admittedly difficult decision for someone who loved the job. One game after that, he turned back to Trubisky when Foles injured his hip, beginning an intriguing new challenge for Nagy.

It always was going to be a tricky dynamic when Pace and Nagy brought in Foles to compete with Trubisky, even if both are considered stand-up teammates. And it got trickier when Nagy awarded Trubisky the starting job before growing weary of the QB's continued struggles after 2½ games and turning to Foles.

The trust on both sides had worn thin, with Trubisky saying later he felt like he was blindsided by the quick decision of the coach who had guided him for two-plus seasons.

The process has changed a bit as they have come back together over the last six games, with a hardened Trubisky feeling emboldened to express his opinions to his coach and an unsettled Nagy understanding the need to tweak his offense to fit what works for Trubisky.

The relationship has resulted in some better performances from Trubisky, but he stumbled against the Packers, including a fourth-quarter interception Sunday.

However, against the four losing teams the Bears played during Trubisky's second stretch, he completed 72 percent of his passes for 1,001 yards, seven touchdowns and two interceptions.

Barry Reeger / AP

Ohio State offensive lineman Wyatt Davis (52) looks to block Penn State linebacker Ellis Brooks (13) during an Oct. 31 game. Davis is likely to face his biggest challenge of the year when Ohio State meets Alabama in the national championship game on Monday.

Prolific offenses in title game powered by tough O-lines

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Ohio State defensive tackle Haskell Garrett, a player who survived getting shot in the face last summer, enjoys a tough opponent.

Purposely crashing into college football's best offensive line during Monday night's national championship game won't be as harrowing as a bullet passing through both of his cheeks, which is what happened when he tried to break up a fight on a street in August. But he knows there will be violence.

"It'll be won in the trenches, no doubt," said Garrett, a 6-foot-2, 299-pound senior captain.

Alabama's offensive line this week won the Joe Moore Award as the best in the nation, paving the way for an offense averaging 535 yards and 48.2 points a game. The Tide (12-0) has allowed 17 sacks while averaging 5.1 yards per rush.

The Tide defense will run into an Ohio State offensive front that has recently been controlling the line of scrimmage better than it has all season.

The veteran Alabama line had two All-Americans and was the catalyst for Heisman Trophy-winning receiver DeVonta Smith and fellow Heisman finalists, running back Najee Harris and quarterback Mac Jones.

Landon Dickerson won the Rimington Trophy as the nation's best center, although he was lost to a season-ending knee injury in the SEC championship game. (Chris Owens, another veteran, will start in his place.)

Left tackle Alex Leatherwood won the Outland Trophy as the nation's best interior lineman.

"They all have the same kind of competitive characteristics," Alabama coach Nick Saban said. "They probably play more together as a unit and as a group in terms of how they communicate, how they combination block and all those things than any other group in football."

The Alabama line will be the biggest one Ohio State has seen this season.

"We love to compete, and we're going to step up to the challenge and we're going to see if they want to play football," said Leatherwood, 6-foot-6 and 312 pounds.

But Ohio State linebacker Pete Werner said it will be nothing new.

"We've seen it every single day in practice," said Werner, a senior captain. "It's going to be very similar. We butt heads with our offensive line, and I'm sure it's neck-and-neck with our offensive line and their offensive line.

"We've seen it. We know what it's like, so we're ready to get after them."

Ohio State's offensive front has distinguished itself this season, too, especially in the last few games after seeing its depth tested by COVID-19 issues.

Behind a unit led by guard Wyatt Davis – an All-American and the Big Ten Offensive Lineman of the Year – and including center Josh Myers and All-Big Ten tackle Thayer Munford, the Ohio State offense was the only one in the Power Five to average 250 yards rushing and 250 passing per game.

"They're athletic. They're physical," said Tide nose guard DJ Dale. "They do a good job of controlling the line of scrimmage, knocking you out of your gap."

Buckeyes running back Trey Sermon blew past the blocks of his front line for 331 yards in the Big Ten championship game win over Northwestern and 193 more in the national semifinal win over Clemson.

"Is it a great, great phenomenal line?" offensive coordinator Kevin Wilson said. "I don't know about that, but they're really good. They're great kids. They give us great practice habits. They're talented. We work really hard to try to put them in good schemes.

"So we'll wait until Monday night to see how good a line it is."

Lasorda, fiery Hall of Fame Dodgers manager, dies at 93

By BETH HARRIS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Tommy Lasorda looked on from a suite at Globe Life Field in Texas, watching as the Los Angeles Dodgers clinched the World Series in Game 6 against the Tampa Bay Rays.

Surrounded by family and friends, Lasorda celebrated the team's first championship in 32 years that October evening amid the coronavirus pandemic. While his mobility was slowed, his mind was still sharp.

Fittingly, it was the last game he ever attended.

"He always said he wanted 2 things, to live to be 100 and to see another championship brought to the city of LA," Dodgers third baseman Justin Turner tweeted. "Although he fought like hell to hit triple digits, I couldn't be more proud to know he got to see the Dodgers on top again, where he knew we belonged."

The Hall of Fame manager who was true to the Dodgers for more than seven decades died Thursday night after having a heart attack at his home in Fullerton, California, the team said Friday. Lasorda was 93. He had just returned home Tuesday after being hospitalized since Nov. 8 with heart issues.

Lasorda had been the oldest living baseball Hall of Famer – that distinction now belongs to Willie Mays, who turns 90 in March.

Lasorda had a history of heart problems, including a heart attack in 1996 that hastened the end of his managerial career and another in 2012 that required him to have a pacemaker.

"It feels appropriate that in his final months, he saw his beloved Dodgers win the World Series for the first time since his 1988 team," commissioner Rob Manfred said.

Lasorda spent 71 years in the Dodgers organization, starting as a player when the team was still based in Brooklyn. He later coached and then became its best-known manager for 21 years in Los Angeles, leading the franchise to two World Series championships. After stepping down in 1996, he became an ambassador for the sport he loved.

Alternately fiery, comforting, profane and full of flair, Lasorda used to say, "I bleed Dodger blue."

He was a master motivator among his players, always knowing just the right amount of confidence or candor required to induce stellar performances.

"In a franchise that has celebrated such great legends of the game, no one who wore the uniform embodied the Dodger spirit as much as Tommy Lasorda," said Stan Kasten, team president and CEO.

Lasorda served as special adviser to team owner and chairman Mark Walter for the last 14 years, and maintained a frequent presence at games sitting in Walter's box.

Lasorda compiled a 1,599-1,439 record as manager from 1977-96. He won World Series titles in 1981 and '88, four National League pennants and eight division titles as the skipper.

Lasorda kept a bronze plaque on his desk reading: "Dodger Stadium was his address, but every ballpark was his home."

He was elected to baseball's Hall of Fame in 1997 as a manager.

Lasorda was the franchise's longest-tenured active employee since Hall of Fame broadcaster Vin Scully retired in 2016 after 67 years.

He is survived by Jo, his wife of 70 years. The couple lived in the same modest home in Fullerton for 68 years. They have a daughter Laura and a granddaughter Emily. The couple's son, Tom Jr., died in 1991 of AIDS-related complications.

SHARKS

From page B1

The Sharks will compete in the Southwestern Michigan Eight-Man Football League, which includes local schools such as Bridgman, Eau Claire, New Buffalo and Lawrence.

The combined enrollment of the three schools would make them ineligible for the MHSAA eight-man playoffs under current rules. They won't be alone in that situation, though. Four schools above the limit competed in a mini-tournament following this season, with Bridgman emerging as the winner.

"I'm not worried about the playoffs," Carter said. "I'm worried about being competitive. If we would go 9-0, we would have a celebration. I hope we have that problem. I would love to see that happen for our kids."

The athletic directors have also discussed plans for everything else that goes into the Friday night football experience – cheerleading, concession stands, bus schedules, and special events such as homecoming and parents' night.

"We've put our work in, and so far it's been 100 percent cooperation from all three schools," Eggert said. "Everybody's pretty excited about something new. We all know that there's going to be bumps in the road, because it's athletics. But the three athletic directors are determined – this will work, get on board, ride the train fast and let's see what happens."

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HARBAUGH

From page B1

would owe the university $2 million if he leaves after the 2021 season, a figure that is reduced by $500,000 in each of the following three years.

Harbaugh has won nearly 70 percent of his games, but is winless against archrival Ohio State and as an underdog against any opponent. Michigan has not won the Big Ten since 2004, seven seasons after its last national championship.

The Wolverines were 2-4 in Harbaugh's sixth season, which ended with three straight games being canceled due to a COVID-19 outbreak within the program. They were 0-3 at the Big House, too, including listless losses to rebuilding rival Michigan State and previously wineless Penn State.

"There is work to be done and challenges to be addressed," Harbaugh said. "These challenges are being addressed as we continue to strive for excellence in the classroom and championships on the field, a message that I hope is noted in the language of our agreed-upon contract."

Harbaugh's hiring was hailed in late 2014 and some suggested the former Wolverines quarterback was going to be a savior for college football's winningest program.

It hasn't worked out that way so far.

Harbaugh does have a 49-22 record, but his 0-5 mark against the Buckeyes is glaring. And when Wisconsin beat the Wolverines 49-11 in 2020, Harbaugh fell to 0-11 in games his team was not favored to win.

Harbaugh seemed to be the perfect person to turn around Michigan's program, which had slumped after Lloyd Carr's retirement following the 2007 season, given his success with the San Francisco 49ers and as the coach at Stanford.

He didn't dampen enthusiasm with a pair of 10-win seasons, but he followed that up by averaging four losses the following three years. This all came alongside a salesmanship that stood out in the staid Big Ten: Harbaugh starred in a rap video, traveled the country for youth camps, took his team to Florida for spring break and overseas on trips, and even had a sleepover with a recruit.

It all helped his Q score, but hasn't done much for his wins and losses.

There were questions about Harbaugh's future well before this pandemic-altered season kicked off. In July, Harbaugh said he had been closing in on a contract extension earlier in the year until the pandemic became the top priority.

That left Harbaugh in a bit of a lurch going into the uncertain season with just two years left on his contract. When Harbaugh was on a Zoom call with reporters for the first time in three-plus months to preview the season, he said there was no update on contract talks.

"Other fish – bigger fish – to fry," he said then.

Expectations were modest for his inexperienced team, which was ranked No. 18 and they went up some after a dominating win at then-No. 21 Minnesota.

It went downhill the very next game when the Spartans and first-year coach Mel Tucker beat Michigan, which was favored to win by 20-plus points. Indiana and the Badgers took turns routing the Wolverines, who needed three overtimes at Rutgers to earn their second win.

Manuel, a former teammate of Harbaugh's under coach Bo Schembechler, has said many times he wants Harbaugh to lead the Wolverines until he chooses to retire from coaching. And, Harbaugh appears to be happy coaching at the school and living in the town where his father was of one of Schembechler's assistant coaches.

SCOREBOARD

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Monday, Jan. 11
COLLEGE FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
Miami Gardens, Fla.
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 3 Ohio St., 8 p.m. (ESPN)

NFL

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 9
Indianapolis at Buffalo, 1:05 p.m.
Los Angeles Rams at Seattle, 4:40 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Washington, 8:15 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 10
Baltimore at Tennessee, 1:05 p.m.
Chicago at New Orleans, 4:40 p.m.
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15 p.m.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS
Saturday, Jan. 16 and Sunday, Jan. 17
lowest seed remaining at Green Bay
lowest seed remaining at Kansas City
TBD vs. TBD
TBD vs. TBD

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS
Sunday, Jan. 24
AFC
TBD
NFC
TBD

SUPER BOWL
Sunday, Feb. 7
At Tampa, Fla.
TBD, 6:30 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Louisville	3	0	1.000	8	1	.889
Virginia	2	0	1.000	6	2	.750
Duke	2	0	1.000	4	2	.667
Clemson	3	1	.750	9	1	.900
Virginia Tech	2	1	.667	8	2	.800
NC State	2	1	.667	6	2	.750
Pittsburgh	2	1	.667	6	2	.750
Georgia Tech	2	1	.667	6	3	.667
North Carolina	2	2	.500	7	4	.636
Syracuse	1	1	.500	6	2	.750
Florida St.	1	1	.500	5	2	.714
Wake Forest	0	2	.000	3	2	.600
Miami	0	4	.000	4	5	.444
Notre Dame	0	3	.000	3	6	.333
Boston College	0	4	.000	2	8	.200

Saturday's Games
Wake Forest at Duke, Noon
Miami at NC State, Noon
Virginia at Boston College, 2 p.m.
Clemson at North Carolina, 7 p.m.
Georgetown at Syracuse, 8 p.m.
Florida St. at Pittsburgh, ppd.
Georgia Tech at Louisville, ppd.
Sunday's Games
Notre Dame at Virginia Tech, 6 p.m.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Michigan	5	0	1.000	10	0	1.000
Illinois	5	1	.833	9	3	.750
Iowa	4	1	.800	10	2	.833
Wisconsin	4	1	.800	10	2	.833
Minnesota	3	3	.500	10	3	.769
Rutgers	3	3	.500	7	3	.615
Purdue	3	3	.500	8	5	.583
Northwestern	3	3	.500	6	4	.600
Ohio St.	2	3	.400	8	3	.727
Indiana	2	3	.400	7	5	.583
Michigan St.	2	4	.333	8	4	.666
Maryland	1	5	.167	6	6	.500
Penn St.	0	3	.000	3	4	.429
Nebraska	0	4	.000	4	7	.364

Thursday's Games
Iowa 89, Maryland 67
Wisconsin 80, Indiana 73, 2OT
Illinois 81, Northwestern 56
Friday's Games
Purdue 55 Michigan St. 54
Saturday's Games
Ohio St. at Rutgers, Noon
Michigan at Penn St., ppd.
Sunday's Games
Minnesota at Iowa, 2:30 p.m.
Indiana at Nebraska, 6 p.m.
Maryland at Illinois, 8 p.m.

MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Bowling Green	4	0	1.000	8	2	.800
Toledo	4	0	1.000	9	3	.750
Akron	2	0	1.000	4	1	.800
Ball St.	2	1	.667	4	4	.500
Ohio	2	2	.500	6	4	.600
Buffalo	1	1	.500	3	3	.500
Cent. Michigan	1	2	.333	5	5	.500
W. Michigan	1	2	.333	2	6	.250
Kent St.	0	2	.000	3	3	.500
Miami (Ohio)	0	1	.000	3	3	.500
E. Michigan	0	2	.000	2	3	.400
N. Illinois	0	4	.000	1	8	.111

Friday's Games
Ohio at Toledo
Saturday's Games
Akron at E. Michigan, 2 p.m.
W. Michigan at Kent St., 4 p.m.
Bowling Green at Cent. Michigan, 4:30 p.m.
Ball St. at Buffalo, 5 p.m.
N. Illinois at Miami (Ohio), 6 p.m.

MISSOURI VALLEY CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Drake	4	0	1.000	13	0	1.000
Loyola-Chicago	2	0	1.000	7	2	.778
Missouri St.	3	1	.750	6	1	.857
Evansville	3	1	.750	5	5	.500
S. Illinois	1	3	.250	7	3	.700
N. Iowa	1	3	.250	2	7	.222
Bradley	0	0	.000	6	3	.667
Illinois St.	0	2	.000	3	5	.375
Valparaiso	0	0	.000	3	5	.375
Indiana St.	0	4	.000	3	6	.333

Saturday's Games
S. Illinois at Indiana St., 1 p.m.
Illinois St. at Evansville, 2 p.m.
Missouri St. at Valparaiso, 2 p.m.
Sunday's Games
S. Illinois at Indiana St., 1 p.m.
Illinois St. at Evansville, 2 p.m.
Missouri St. at Valparaiso, 2 p.m.
Bradley at N. Iowa, 4 p.m.
Loyola of Chicago at Drake, 6:30 p.m.

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	7	2	.778	—
Boston	7	3	.700	½
New York	5	4	.556	2
Brooklyn	5	5	.500	2½
Toronto	1	6	.143	5
Southeast Division				
Orlando	6	3	.667	—
Atlanta	4	4	.500	1½
Charlotte	4	5	.444	2
Miami	3	4	.429	2
Washington	2	7	.222	4
Central Division				
Indiana	6	2	.750	—
Milwaukee	5	4	.556	1½
Cleveland	5	4	.556	1½
Chicago	4	5	.444	2½
Detroit	2	7	.222	4½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Dallas	4	4	.500	—
San Antonio	4	4	.500	—
New Orleans	4	5	.444	½
Houston	3	4	.429	½
Memphis	3	6	.333	1½
Northwest Division				
Utah	5	4	.556	—
Portland	4	4	.500	½
Oklahoma City	4	4	.500	½
Denver	3	5	.375	1½
Minnesota	2	6	.250	2½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Clippers	6	3	.667	—
Phoenix	6	3	.667	—
L.A. Lakers	6	3	.667	—
Golden State	4	4	.500	1½
Sacramento	4	4	.500	1½

Thursday's Games
Brooklyn 122, Philadelphia 109
Cleveland 94, Memphis 90
Portland 135, Minnesota 117
San Antonio 118, L.A. Lakers 109
Dallas 124, Denver 117, OT
Friday's Games
Detroit 110, Phoenix 105, OT
Oklahoma City 101, New York 89
Boston 116, Washington 107
Charlotte 118, New Orleans 110
Houston 132, Orlando 90
Memphis 115, Brooklyn 110
Utah 131, Milwaukee 118
Chicago at L.A. Lakers
L.A. Clippers at Golden State
Toronto at Sacramento
Saturday's Games
Denver at Philadelphia, 3 p.m.
Atlanta at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Cleveland at Milwaukee, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Portland at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Sunday's Games
Utah at Detroit, 3 p.m.
Chicago at L.A. Clippers, 4 p.m.
Denver at New York, 6 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Brooklyn, 6 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 7 p.m.
Miami at Boston, 7 p.m.
San Antonio at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.
Monday's Games
Memphis at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Washington, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
New Orleans at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Indiana at Sacramento, 10 p.m.
Toronto at Portland, 10 p.m.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
Major League Baseball
American League
HOUSTON ASTROS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryne Stanek on a one-year contract.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Acquired OF Greg Allen from San Diego in exchange for LHP James Reeves.

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2021 tax season could get ugly

Michelle Singletary

The surging pandemic. Confusion over who gets a stimulus payment. An overwhelmed IRS workforce still trying to catch up with last year's delayed tax season.

This is not the year to procrastinate. File your federal tax return early – and electronically.

"More than ever, this is a great year to switch to filing electronically and choosing direct deposit," said IRS spokesman Eric Smith. "About half of paper filers actually prepare their return with tax software. If you're one of them, why not take the next step and e-file, rather than mailing your return to the IRS. It's fast, and secure, and there are fewer mistakes, too."

The tax season can be frustrating under normal circumstances, especially if you're trying to reach an IRS representative on the phone. But this year may prove to be an extreme exercise in patience. We are going into an unprecedented tax season with a bevy of changes as a result of the novel coronavirus.

Last month, the IRS said "covid-19 continues to cause delays in some of our services." This includes processing paper returns, answering mail and calls from taxpayers, and reviewing electronic returns, the agency said.

"I would use the word bumpy as an adjective to describe the 2021 tax season," said Eric Bronnenkant, head of tax at online financial adviser Betterment.

The IRS will be dealing with people who are desperate to get stimulus relief that was authorized last March and again at the end of December: Up to $1,200 for individuals ($2,400 for couples filing jointly) in the first round of relief, and half that much in the second. There's additional money for a qualifying child under 17 ($500 for the first stimulus package, and $600 in the second).

Because the stimulus payments were based on people's 2018 or 2019 returns, if they've lost a job or their income dropped significantly in 2020, they may be able to claim the covid-related "Recovery Rebate Credit" on the 1040 form for 2020, Bronnenkant said.

And now, with a Democratic-controlled House and Senate and President-elect Joe Biden in the White House, there's a greater possibility that another stimulus package will be passed, with a third economic impact payment going to individuals struggling from the financial fallout of covid-19.

Some people who got a direct deposit for their first stimulus payments may be confused if their funds aren't sent to their bank account this time around.

"I spent close to four hours, most of it on hold, trying to sort this out with the IRS," a reader wrote. "Today, I got the name, routing, and account number for the bank it went to, called MetaBank."

This has happened before. In the first wave of covid relief, many people didn't realize that the IRS was issuing stimulus payments on a prepaid debit card issued by MetaBank, which is the Treasury's financial agent. This time around, the Treasury and IRS said they were mailing about 8 million economic impact payments loaded on prepaid debit cards.

There have also been some changes since the earlier Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (Cares) Act. The first time, couples who filed jointly were generally ineligible for a stimulus payment if only one of the spouses had a Social Security number – unless they were a member of the military. But the most recent stimulus measure reversed that decision, and now these couples can claim the rebate credit on their 2020 return.

Meanwhile, I've also heard from many readers who are still awaiting their regular 2019 tax refunds.

"My husband and I filed our taxes last March, electronically through our local credit union," said Nicole Juarez from Greenville, North Carolina. "To this day, we still have not received our refund of $1,091."

And because their 2019 return hasn't been processed, the Juarez family didn't get the second stimulus payment, which would bring them another $1,800. "It's very frustrating," Juarez said.

I'm also concerned that many people who received unemployment benefits for the first time in 2020 don't realize the money is taxable by the federal government (and by most states). This includes the enhanced unemployment funds authorized under the Cares Act.

If you received unemployment benefits, look out for IRS Form 1099-G, "Certain Government Payments," which will show the amount of unemployment you received last year.

Although states are required to inform all new unemployment claimants of their responsibility to pay income tax on their benefits, many people may have opted against having taxes taken out.

Another possible problem could arise from the Cares Act provision that allowed people to take money out of their retirement funds and spread the taxes owed over three years. This is how the IRS explains it: "For example, If you receive a $9,000 coronavirus-related distribution in 2020, you would report $3,000 in income on your federal income tax return for each of 2020, 2021, and 2022."

If folks didn't hold back funds to cover those taxes, I can only imagine their anxiety if they get an unexpected tax bill.

Another good reason to file early is to beat the scammers, Bronnenkant said.

"I hear more and more cases about someone having their identity stolen and a tax return filed in their name," he said. "Ultimately it ends up taking them a year or more to get their refund, because the IRS effectively paid their refund to a fraudster. It's a big headache."

I'd say this tax season might be more than bumpy. It could get ugly.

Ask the Fool

Payout Ratios, Explained

Q Can you explain payout ratios? — *M.W., Bradley, Illinois*

A A company's payout ratio is the percentage of its earnings (net income) that's paid out to shareholders as dividend income. For example, PepsiCo's trailing earnings per share (EPS) over the past year were recently $5.05 and its annual dividend was $4.02 ($1.023 per quarter). Divide $4.02 by $5.05 and you'll get 0.80, or a payout ratio of 80%.

A payout ratio above 100% reflects a company paying out more than it's earning, which is not sustainable over the long run. (It can be OK in the short term, if the company is going through a temporary rough patch.) A high payout ratio — say, 80%, 90% or more — gives a company little flexibility regarding what it can do with its cash. That can be OK for big, established companies that don't need to reinvest much in their businesses. A low payout ratio reflects lots of room for dividend increases.

Consider a very steep payout ratio a red flag, as the company may have to reduce its dividend. For lists of our recommended stocks, with and without dividends, check out one of our investor services, at **Fool.com/services**.

***

Q How many stock mutual funds exist? — *R.P., Beaverton, Oregon*

A According to the Investment Company Institute, as of November 2020, there were about 7,677 mutual funds in the U.S., with about 4,478 of them focused on stocks. It's worth counting exchange-traded funds (ETFs), too, as they're also pooled money invested in portfolios of various securities. As of November, there were 2,165 ETFs, 1,634 focused on stocks.

To learn more about investing in mutual funds and ETFs, visit **Morningstar.com** or the "Investing Basics" nook at **Fool.com**.

Want more information about stocks? Send us an email to foolnews@fool.com.

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Short on Cash? You Have Choices

It's common to suddenly face an unexpected expense — or simply to be severely short on cash. Ideally, you'll be ready for such unwelcome developments with your well-stocked emergency fund. But if you don't have an emergency fund (yet), you do have some other options, though many have significant downsides:

You can borrow money — from friends, relatives or a bank, via a personal loan. That can provide relief, but you'll need to repay the loan. Failing to do so could damage relationships or hurt your credit rating.

You might also borrow based on any equity you have in your home, via a home equity loan or a home equity line of credit — or you might refinance your mortgage, taking out cash in the process. These strategies can offer better interest rates than other loans, but they're secured by your home, putting your homeownership at risk.

You can address cash shortfalls by charging expenses on your credit card, but if you're already deep in debt, that can just make a bad problem worse. It's especially bad if your credit card is charging a high interest rate, as most do. See if you can get a 0% APR credit card instead, which offers an initial period charging 0% interest. Aim to completely pay off what you've charged during that period.

Retirement accounts and even life insurance policies may also offer funds you can borrow or cash out, but by doing so, you could shortchange your retirement nest egg and leave less money for your heirs when you pass away.

Among the best strategies, if you can manage them, are to spend less and to earn extra money via a side gig. There are many ways to earn more income, and a little research online will help you find appealing ones. For example, you might drive for a ride-sharing service; rent out space in your home via Airbnb or a similar service; tutor students online; make and sell crafts on Etsy and elsewhere; or sell unwanted items from your closets, garage or attic.

My Smartest Investment

Mentors: Great Investments

My smartest investments ever have been lunches with my mentors — because their experience has been tried and tested. — *G.R.L., online*

The Fool Responds: Few people think of mentoring as investing, but as you suggest, it's an excellent kind of investing — in someone's future.

If you're young — or even midway through a career — you'd do well to seek out people willing to serve as mentors for you. Some companies have formal mentoring programs in which you can participate. Alternatively, you might find one or more mentors by approaching superiors you admire and offering to treat them to a coffee or lunch, so that you can ask questions about their career path and how they've succeeded. (Some career counselors advise not asking directly for someone to be your mentor, but instead to let such a relationship simply develop, by asking questions and working hard enough to get noticed.) Ideally, a mentor will offer guidance and honest feedback — and, if they're in a position to do so, help you land better jobs.

If you're already well-positioned in your career path, consider seeking out promising younger folks who could use some good advice and support. Mentees, for their part, should listen well and be willing to hear some hard truths on occasion. Ideally, they should proactively drive conversations, not just await pearls of wisdom to be delivered on a platter.

The Motley Fool Take

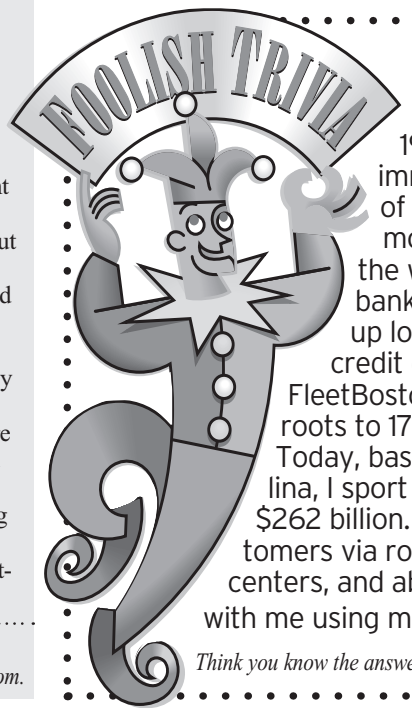
Cash and Carey

Diversified real estate investment trust (REIT) W.P. Carey (NYSE: WPC) was recently down 20% from its 52-week high, in part because of its exposure to sectors hit hard by COVID-19, such as retail and restaurants. But about 47% of its portfolio consists of industrial properties and warehouse spaces, some of which have enjoyed tailwinds from the pandemic-driven growth in e-commerce. The company's diversification has paid off. Also impressive, W.P. Carey collected 98% of the rent it billed in the third quarter.

W.P. Carey is a "net-lease" REIT. Essentially, it owns single-tenant properties, and its tenants are responsible for most of the operating costs of the assets they occupy. That's generally considered a fairly low-risk approach to owning real estate. Furthermore, W.P. Carey tends to buy properties directly in sale-leaseback transactions, finding companies that are looking to raise cash (to shore up their balance sheets or invest in growth) by selling properties they still want to occupy.

Long-term investors in W.P. Carey can profit from its solid business model and its hefty dividend, which recently yielded nearly 6% and has been increased annually for more than two decades. It has a strong performance history, and recently sported a reasonable valuation, with shares recently trading for around 15.5 times its cash flow per share

For those interested in real estate income, W.P. Carey is worth a closer look.



Name That Company

I trace my roots back to 1904, when a son of Italian immigrants founded the Bank of Italy in San Francisco, which morphed over time to become the world's largest commercial bank by the 1930s. I've gobbled up lots of companies, including credit card giant MBNA, U.S. Trust, FleetBoston Financial (which traced its roots to 1784) and even Merrill Lynch. Today, based in Charlotte, North Carolina, I sport a market value recently near $262 billion. I serve about 66 million customers via roughly 4,300 retail financial centers, and about 31 million customers bank with me using mobile devices. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to the 1899 creation of the Electric Boat Company, which built the first practical submarine and sold it to the U.S. Navy. In 1954 it delivered the world's first nuclear-powered submarine. I was formed with my current name in 1952, through the merger of Electric Boat, Canadair and the Electro Dynamics Company. Today, based in Virginia with a market value recently near $43 billion, I rake in more than $38 billion annually. My offerings include IT services, combat vehicles, weapons systems and munitions. My businesses include Jet Aviation and Gulfstream. Who am I? (Answer: General Dynamics)

Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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Start 2021 off strong with these money moves

Liz Weston

After the train wreck that was 2020, you may well question whether it's worth trying to plan anything. But knocking off a few financial tasks early in the year can better prepare you for whatever 2021 has in store.

File your tax return ASAP

Filing your tax return early typically means getting your refund sooner. Not only that, it could thwart refund-stealing identity thieves.

Also, If you were owed a stimulus check in 2020 but didn't get one, or should have gotten more, you can claim the missing money on your return.

If you owe the IRS, it's better to know sooner rather than later. You'll have more time to find the money or arrange a payment plan.

Also, unemployment checks are generally taxable. Many people who received last year's extended jobless benefits may face a larger-than-expected tax bill this year, tax experts say.

Check your withholding

Once your 2020 tax return is prepared, you can use that and your first pay stub from 2021 to see if you're on track with tax withholding. A good tax withholding calculator can help you determine how to adjust the amounts taken from each paycheck. Then, contact your employer if you need to make changes.

If you're self-employed, you may need to make estimated quarterly payments. You could consult a tax professional to find out how much those should be.

Adjust your retirement savings

Consider increasing and diversifying your retirement contributions. After you take full advantage of any available company match in a 401(k) or 403(b), look into funding a Roth IRA.

Financial planners often recommend having at least some money in a Roth so you can better control your tax bill in retirement. If your income is too high to make a direct Roth contribution – the ability to contribute starts to phase out at modified adjusted gross income of $140,000 for singles and $208,000 for married filing jointly – you could consider converting a portion of an existing traditional IRA.

Check your spending

Budgeting apps and personal finance websites can help you see where your money went in 2020 and help you make a plan for 2021.

You can also look back over bank or credit card statements. But even if you can't get the full year's worth of transactions, reviewing just a few months can show you some patterns and help you identify spending you want to change.

Set up your 'savings buckets'

Preparing for irregular – but predictable – expenses can help you feel less panicked when those bills arrive. These expenses can include insurance premiums, property taxes, car and home repairs, vacations, back-to-school shopping and holidays. Check your spending in each of these areas for the past few years to ballpark how much to save this year.

Once you have your savings goals for each category, consider setting up separate savings accounts at an online bank that doesn't charge monthly fees.

You can divide the amounts by the number of paychecks you'll get before the money is needed, and set up automatic transfers from your checking account to the appropriate savings account after each payday.

Charitable contributions

Most charities prefer getting regular contributions throughout the year, since the steady income helps them plan.

You may discover you can give more if you're not trying to squeeze your contributions in with other year-end spending. You can use your bank's bill pay system to send monthly checks or arrange with the charity to charge a credit card.

Spend your medical FSA

Flexible spending accounts are employer-provided benefits that allow you to put aside tax-free money for medical or child care expenses.

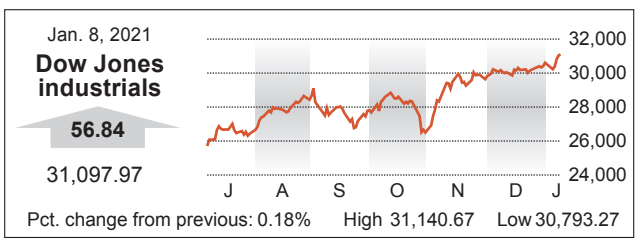
If you signed up for your employer's medical FSA, try to spend that money as early in the year as possible. You don't have to wait until the money is taken from your paycheck to use it for eligible health care expenses. (That's different from child care FSAs, which don't allow you to spend money before you contribute it.)

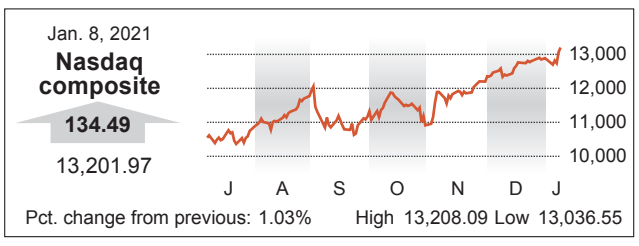
Spending early has a few advantages. You don't risk leaving money in the account and potentially losing it. (Many employers extend the deadline for using the money past Dec. 31, but at some point unspent money is forfeited.)

Incurring medical expenses early in the year can help you meet insurance deductibles, too, so the rest of your health care can cost less. Also, if you leave your job during the year, you don't have to finish making FSA contributions. In other words, you can spend the full amount you had planned to contribute, up to $2,750, without actually having to contribute the full amount.

Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet, a certified financial planner and author of "Your Credit Score."

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$79.18 **-.71 -.9%**
▼ **4-wk.** -4.3% ▼ **YTD** -4.9%

Whirlpool WHR
$179.54 **-2.93 -1.6%**
▼ **4-wk.** -2.4% ▼ **YTD** -.5%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	52-WK RANGE HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	29.02	-.37	-1.3	▲	▼	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	79.18	-.71	-0.9	▼	▼	▼
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	138.79	132.05	+1.13	+0.9	▼	▲	▼
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1267.93	1252.92	+6.88	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	24.40	+.49	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	57.68	-.27	-0.5	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	51.08	+1.12	+2.2	▼	▼	▼
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	51.54	+.88	+1.7	▼	▲	▼
Deere	DE	106.14	300.56	293.91	-5.82	-1.9	▲	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	183.40	178.69	+.11	+0.1	▼	▲	▼
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	115.00	112.97	-1.78	-1.6	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.36	45.46	+.50	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	32.12	31.18	-.26	-0.8	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	51.85	42.30	-1.15	-2.6	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.50	9.00	-.06	-0.7	▲	▼	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	11.34	+.07	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	269.09	+2.83	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	18.75	16.28	-.45	-2.7	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	14.86	14.43	-.01	-0.1	▲	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	208.66	206.92	-1.32	-0.6	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	128.53	-.46	-0.4	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	140.76	136.02	+.15	+0.1	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	161.03	160.04	-.33	-0.2	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	165.05	+1.34	+0.8	▲	▲	▲
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	215.87	+3.89	+1.8	▲	▲	▲
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	219.62	+1.33	+0.6	▼	▲	▼
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	42.26	34.50	+.14	+0.4	▲	▼	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	44.64	-1.36	-3.0	▼	▼	▼
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	43.08	37.13	+.07	+0.2	▲	▼	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	138.79	-.06	...	▼	▲	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	96.97	+.20	+0.2	▲	▲	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	20.24	13.29	-.01	-0.1	▼	▲	▼
Stryker	SYK	124.54	245.53	243.66	-.06	...	▼	▲	▼
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	46.93	42.88	-.07	-0.2	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	192.35	193.60	+2.50	+1.3	▲	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	149.31	+2.19	+1.5	▲	▲	▲
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	158.39	-.61	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	61.95	57.80	-.73	-1.2	▼	▼	▼
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	87.95	-.31	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	146.63	-.02	...	▲	▼	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.78	45.21	-.05	-0.1	▲	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	21.51	+.40	+1.9	▼	▼	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	179.54	-2.93	-1.6	▼	▼	▼
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	58.99	55.84	-1.25	-2.2	▲	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	128.57	125.90	-.99	-0.8	▲	▲	▲

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious of fine appearance sold higher from $33, Golden Delicious fine appearance fruit sold from $40, Fuji brought mostly $34-36, Pink Lady sold from $40, Gala sold steady from $35-36 with fine appearance offerings from $39-40, and 72 size Honeycrisp sold for $35-36 with fine appearance $54. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold for $28, while Golden Delicious sold for $26-27, Fuji sold for $22 and Gala brought $30, while bushel cartons of 3-inch up Michigan Gala, Golden Delicious and Jonagold sold for $20.

ASPARAGUS: 11-pound cartons/crates bunched from Peru standard size sold higher $38.50, while white large offerings are currently unavailable.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type machine-picked offerings from Florida sold lower from $26.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids of medium-large size blueberries from Peru sold slightly lower from $22-22.50, with fine appearance offerings from Mexico sold for $32-32.50. No organic offerings. Strawberries in flats of 12 1-pound containers medium-large size from Mexico sold for mostly $28-29. No organic offerings.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches from California sold higher from $24.50-25, with organic offerings $22.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Georgia sold lower from $18.50-20, with offerings from Texas lower at mostly $18-20 and red offerings $28.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from Arizona sold lower for $30.50-32. No organic offerings.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen Florida bi-color sold higher for $46-48, with yellow offerings $45.50.

CRANBERRIES: Cartons of 24 12-ounce packages of offerings from Wisconsin sold lower from mostly $29-30.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold lower for mostly $22-23, large sold lower for $20-21.50, while carton 24s sold lower for $8-10. Pickles of 200-300 size from Texas sold lower for $29.50.

EGGPLANT: 1 1/9-bushel cartons of medium size from Florida sold higher for $17, with 24 count Mexico offerings sold lower at $14-16.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from Arizona sold higher for mostly $20-22, with organic offerings $40.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of California 72 size valencia juice oranges sold steady for mostly $28-29.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Florida green extra-large sold for $26, with large $18. Medium-large size cubanelle peppers from Florida sold for $32, with Mexico offerings of medium-large hungarian wax peppers sold for $18, extra-large serranos sold for mostly $27-28, long hots brought $20-22 and medium poblanos from Mexico brought $18-20 while extra-large size jalapenos sold for mostly $17.50.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small-medium zucchini from Mexico sold lower for $10, with medium lower for $8-10, while yellow straightneck small-medium sold lower for $12.50 with mediums $14. 40-pound cartons of medium size butternut from Mexico sold for mostly $17.50-19, Mexico offerings of acorn and spaghetti from $20.

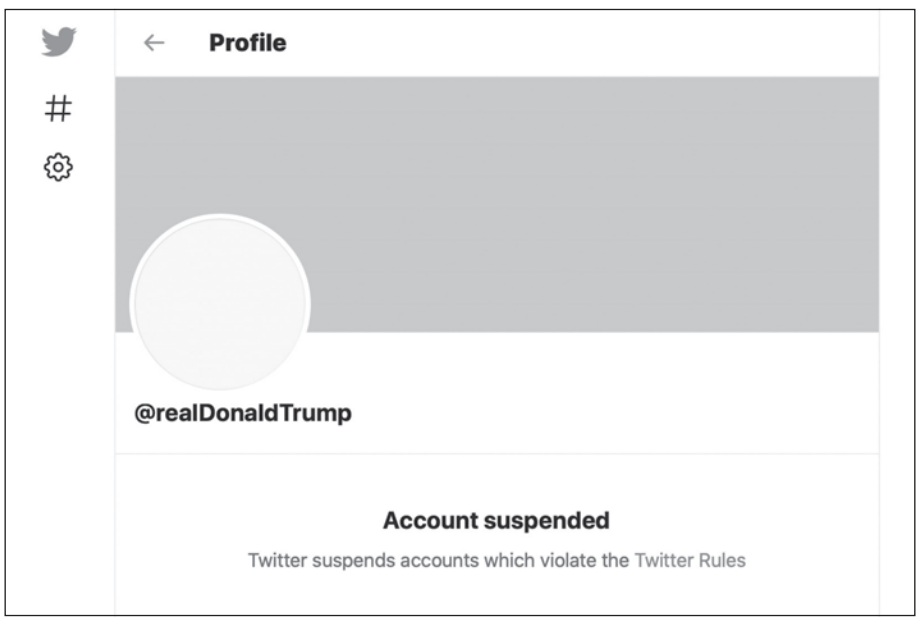
TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose vine-ripe offerings from Mexico of 5x6 size sold for $36, and mature green offerings from Florida sold for $36, while cartons 2-layer offerings of vine ripes from Mexico of 4x5 size sold lower for $35-36. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type light red-red medium size from Mexico sold lower for $16-18, while grape type Florida sold from $24-26. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large size from Mexico sold slightly lower from mostly $27-29.

WAYLAND LIVESTOCK

As of Tuesday, Jan. 5. Prices are per pound.

High yielding choice & prime	$1.02 – $1.07
Choice steers & heifers	$1.00 – $1.03 cents
Utility cows	50 cents – 65 cents
Canner & cutter cows	30 cents – 52 cents
Bulls	57 cents – 71 cents
Top bull calves	60 cents – $1.00
Hay	$5.00 – $7.75 per bale
Straw	$3.50 – $5.60

For information, call 792-2296 or fax 792-8055.



AP Photo

This image shows the suspended Twitter account of President Donald Trump. On Friday, the social media company permanently suspended Trump from its platform, citing "risk of further incitement of violence."

Twitter bans Trump, citing risk of violent incitement

By TALI ARBEL
AP Technology Writer

Twitter banned President Donald Trump's account Friday, citing "the risk of further incitement of violence" following the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday.

Twitter has long given Trump and other world leaders broad exemptions from its rules against personal attacks, hate speech and other behaviors. But in a detailed explanation posted on its blog Friday, the company said recent Trump tweets amounted to glorification of violence when read in the context of the Capitol riot and plans circulating online for future armed protests around the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

The social platform has been under growing pressure to take further action against Trump following the Wednesday violence. On Thursday, Facebook suspended Trump's account through Jan. 20 and possibly indefinitely. Twitter merely suspended Trump's account for 12 hours after he posted a video that repeated false claims about election fraud and praised the rioters who stormed the Capitol.

Trump's Twitter persona has long functioned as a mix of policy announcements, often out of the blue; complaints about the media; disparagement of women, minorities and his perceived enemies; and praise for his supporters, replete with exclamation marks, all-caps, and one-word declarations such as "Sad!"

He has fired numerous officials on Twitter and his posts, like his speeches at rallies, are a torrent of misinformation.

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Twitter declined to make CEO Jack Dorsey available and had no further comment.

The official account for the President of the United States, @POTUS, remains live. In fact, Trump, who issued a statement Friday evening that denounced Twitter as an enemy of free speech and floated the idea that he might build his own "platform," also posted it on the @POTUS account, where it was quickly deleted.

Twitter says using another account to evade a suspension is against its rules, and that while it won't ban government accounts like @POTUS or @WhiteHouse, it will "take action to limit their use."

Shannon McGregor, an assistant professor of journalism and media at the University of North Carolina, said the move lets Twitter try to curry favor with the incoming Biden administration. Trump "only has two weeks left in power, and that certainly makes it easier to deplatform the president," she said.

In the Trump tweets cited by Twitter, Trump stated that he will not be attending the inauguration and referred to his supporters as "American Patriots," saying they will have "a GIANT VOICE long into the future." Twitter said these statements "are likely to inspire others to replicate the violent acts that took place on January 6, 2021, and that there are multiple indicators that they are being received and understood as encouragement to do so."

Twitter said its policy enables world leaders to speak to the public, but that these accounts "are not above our rules entirely" and can't use Twitter to incite violence. Trump had roughly 89 million followers. Twitter shares fell roughly 4 percent in after-hours trading, reflecting concerns that the Trump ban might reduce usage and advertising sales.

Jonathan Greenblatt, who heads the Anti-Defamation League, said Friday that banning Trump was an "excellent step" and "a fitting end to a legacy of spewing hate and vitriol." The ADL was part of a coalition of civil rights and advocacy groups on Friday calling for Twitter to ban Trump's account.

St. Joseph Today begins business-friendly campaign

Prizes will be awarded in program running through May 26

By HP STAFF

ST. JOSEPH — St. Joseph Today is launching a campaign to boost commerce with Southwest Michigan businesses and restaurants.

Referred to as the "Countdown to Summer," the program offers participants a chance to win weekly prizes from the St. Joseph organization by buying locally.

"We're gearing up for sunshine and warmer days here in Michigan's Great Southwest," said Amy Zapal, executive director of St. Joseph Today, in a news release. "Countdown to Summer is a great way to support local Southwest Michigan businesses and restaurants during the winter and spring seasons."

For every $25 spent, participants will receive one entry for a prize drawing. Qualifying purchases must be made at a St. Joseph Today member location from Jan. 1 through May 26.

Participants can earn double entries on purchases made during Ice Fest Weekend, which is Feb. 5-7.

One winner will be drawn weekly, between Feb. 11 and May 27. Winners will receive a $50 gift certificate from various businesses.

To receive an entry form, participants must present receipts of purchases to a St. Joseph Today staff member at the Welcome Center in downtown St. Joseph.

For more information, visit stjoetoday.com/countdown, as well as from the following sites:

Eat: stjoetoday.com/eat
Shop: stjoetoday.com/shop
Stay: stjoetoday.com/stay
Play: stjoetoday.com/play

U.S. loses 140K jobs, first monthly drop since spring

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers shed jobs last month for the first time since April, cutting 140,000 positions, clear evidence that the economy is faltering as the viral pandemic tightens its grip on consumers and businesses.

At the same time, the unemployment rate stayed at 6.7 percent, the first time it hasn't fallen since April.

Friday's figures from the Labor Department depict a sharply uneven job market, with losses concentrated among restaurants, bars, hotels and entertainment venues, many of them affecting low-income employees, while most other sectors are still adding workers. Still, the nation has nearly 10 million fewer jobs than it did before the pandemic sent it into a deep recession nearly a year ago, having recovered just 56 percent of the jobs lost in the spring.

The pandemic will likely continue to weaken the economy through winter and perhaps early spring, and further job losses are possible in the coming months. But many economists say that once coronavirus vaccines are more widely distributed, a broader recovery should take hold in the second half of the year. The incoming Biden administration, along with a now fully Democratic-led House and Senate, is also expected to push more rescue aid and spending measures that could accelerate growth.

Simple tips for better time management

With so many responsibilities to tend to as a small business owner, it's easy to get overwhelmed and fall short on what you want to accomplish.

If you're a new entrepreneur who formerly worked for an employer other than yourself, you may discover managing time has become more challenging.

That's natural. After all, you've gone from having your work schedule and priorities set for you to needing to prioritize every project and task related to running your business.

Time management doesn't come naturally to everyone, but it's an essential skill that can be developed with some attention and effort.

Here are some simple time management tips to help you take control and become more productive:

■ Don't multitask: Believe it or not, multitasking has been proven to accomplish less rather than more. According to Sanjay Gupta, MD, on CNN.com, only 2 percent of people are exceptional multitaskers. The rest of us fail at it – and quite miserably, too. According to Gupta, when we "multitask," we're not really doing both activities simultaneously. In reality, we're diverting our attention from one part of our brain to another, which takes time and brain cells. The other side of our brain views it as starting a brand new activity when we switch back and forth, making us slower and less effective than if we were to focus on just one activity at a time.

■ Schedule everything: This goes for your project work, administrative tasks, phone calls, meetings, and even checking and responding to email messages. While you may not always stick to your schedule, you'll be more conscious about staying on task and not squandering time.

■ Make email more manageable: An eMarketer blog post shared that according to Adobe research in July 2015, U.S. business executives spend 3.2 hours daily checking work email on weekdays. In addition, they spend nearly the same amount of time checking personal email: an average of 3.1 hours each day. As a small business owner running your company, email will likely demand a good bit of your time, too. Honoring the first two tips above, schedule time to tend to your email and don't jump back and forth from email to other tasks.

■ Build in some wiggle room: In an ideal world, everything would go as planned. But we live in the real world where the unexpected happens on a regular basis. By building some time into your day to accommodate unanticipated phone calls, tasks that run longer than you thought they would, etc., you'll be less likely to fall behind schedule with all else.

■ Delegate: If your problem getting things done is less rooted in your time management skills and more in the fact that you simply have too much to do, consider delegating and/or outsourcing. If you have employees, consider what responsibilities you might entrust to them. If you're a solo business owner with no staff, you might consider contracting a virtual assistant who can take on some of your administrative tasks.

Starting a new business requires a lot of time, so it pays to spend it wisely and use it as efficiently as possible. For additional guidance and insight about all things related to starting and growing a small business, contact the SCORE chapter near you.

Visit SCORE at www.score.org and locally at www.swmi.score.org. The Kalamazoo Chapter phone is 269-344-1419

SCORE™

This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Photo provided

Capt. Mark Chmura, at left, holds a steelhead caught by Matt Serbenski on the Manistee River recently.

High-tech bobber fishing

Dave Mull

I've got no statistics to back up this statement, but I would bet that most avid anglers caught their first fish after watching a bobber go down. It's as simple as fishing gets, and it is certainly effective.

I thought about this in late December while my friend Matt Serbenski and I stood at the transom of Capt. Mark Chmura's 26-foot jet-outboard-powered boat, letting the current pull our bobbers down stream, dragging line from our bait-casting reels, Captain Mark occasionally chiding us to hold the tips of our 11-foot rods high.

"If you hold the tip low, too much slack gets on top of the water and you can't hook that steelhead very well," Chmura said.

We were on a section of the Manistee that looks downright prehistoric. Leafless trees on flat shoreline just above standing water, long marsh grass, an occasional eagle sitting on a branch or gliding at treetop level. We saw no other boats and it was rare to see a house or other sign of humans. We'd gotten on the water at 8 a.m., and the steelhead were uncooperative for the first half of our morning. We each swung and missed a couple of times when our floats bobbed below the surface. A couple times we snagged unseen trees on the river bottom. A couple times the bobbers zipped down and we set into nothingness. The crushed spawn bags dangling on the hooks showed that fish were the culprits.

Even without constant action from fish, steelhead fishing on a river is a relaxing sport that lends itself to casual conversation and snacking. It helps when you're on a boat such as Chmura's, which has a heated cabin that you can duck into to warm fingers and toes. My miniature dachshund mix Gus spent almost the whole trip inside.

After moving to new spots at mid-morning, Chmura let his electric winch grind out cable and put the big chain anchor on the bottom. Almost right away Serbenski swept the long rod back and was hooked into a steelhead that didn't appreciate his end of the deal.

It was a big one, too, and managed to wrap the line around a couple branches about five feet below the surface. Chmura calmly adjusted the boat's position next to the tree and, with a telescoping lure retriever (similar to a golf ball retriever) almost miraculously got the line unwrapped. The fish swam back into the current and struggled for a bit longer before it met the bottom of Capt. Chmura's net.

The chunky male pulled the scale down to 10.5 pounds and soon resided in the cooler.

We spent more time trying new spots, and although the fish were present, they didn't want to bite well enough to get hooked. I watched my bobber intently after about six hours of fishing and could see that something was smacking the bait but not getting the hook in its lip. Three straight drifts, the bobber jittered, I set the hook and reeled in a slightly mangled spawn bag. It wasn't far behind the boat, and I got determined to win this game over the fish. Finally, rod tip high, bobber drifting back to the same spot, it wiggled and I set the hook like a well-oiled mouse-trap snapping (well, let's just say as fast as I could) and finally was fighting a fish. It was just a little one, maybe two pounds, but fun to catch.

A guided steelhead trip is a great alternative to ice fishing, and it's easy to find a good captain for the St. Joe and other rivers. A partial list for the St. Joe includes Coho Bob Lausman, 2699-470-0720; Jeremee Curtis, 269-588-2265; Todd Brill, 269-548-7304, Michael Frank, 574-876-6653, and Tim Shaffer, 269-921-6997. If you want to take a road trip to the Manistee, call Mark Chmura at 231-233-1579. Yours truly has fished with most of these fellows and the rest come highly recommended.

Give a steelhead trip a try this winter.

Outdoors columnist Dave Mull lives in Kalamazoo. Write to him at dave.sportfish.mull@gmail.com.

FISHING REPORT

Southwest Lower Peninsula

Inland lakes in the area have snow on top of thin ice and will need more time before anglers can get out. Boats are fishing the bigger rivers for steelhead, but launches are starting to ice up, making it more difficult.

St. Joseph: A couple pier anglers were out targeting steelhead. When they can get out, boat anglers were fishing close to shore.

Grand River near Grand Rapids: Anglers are still getting some steelhead on spawn or when floating a jig tipped with a wax worm.

Rogue River: Is also producing some steelhead in the lower river. Most are using a jig with a wax worm.

Muskegon River: Continues to produce some steelhead and pike.

White River: Those fishing down near the mouth caught a couple steelhead.

– Michigan DNR, Jan. 7

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

CPL classes: The Watervliet Rod and Gun Club is offering concealed pistol license classes.

February: Register from 6-7 p.m. Feb. 2. Classes are from 6-10 p.m. Feb. 4 and from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 6. For more information, call 470-9191 or 468-3837.

Harbor Country Hikers

The Greats: Zoom presentation 7 p.m. Jan. 14. Fernwood Botanical Garden's Sims Education Center memorializes 55 environmentalists, preservationists, botanists, nature illustrators and more. In this presentation, Carol Line, executive director of Fernwood, discusses the life and work of some of them.

Submit information for Get Outdoors to sports@TheHP.com, fax to 429-4392 or call 429-1294 by Wednesday.

FishPass construction could start this month

By JORDAN TRAVIS
Traverse City Record-Eagle

TRAVERSE CITY — Construction on FishPass, a selective two-way fish-sorting system slated to replace the Union Street Dam in Traverse City, could start in mid-January.

That's a huge leap for an idea that Dan Zielinski, Great Lakes Fishery Commission project lead, said he's been working on since 2016 and goes back years.

"To finally be to the point where shovels are really going to be in the ground at the start of the new year is a fairly monumental achievement," he said.

An Oct. 24 groundbreaking ceremony was only one milestone for the project in 2020. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers weeks earlier selected Spence Brothers' $19.3 million bid to construct the project, as previously reported.

And in December the state Department of Natural Resources' Natural Resources Trust Fund recommended a $300,000 grant to build new amenities on bordering parkland. Other funding fell into place for the project during the year, including $1.83 million in federal grants announced in July for research.

Controversy over the project remains, with some objecting to the look of the design and the alteration of Union Street Dam Park, and others concerned about the future of the Boardman River's wild brook trout fishery.

Construction plans will be finalized at an early January meeting with the city, GLFC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and project partner Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. For now, the first step is to relocate a city water main that runs through the current dam.

Then, construction crews will wall off half the river to build a labyrinth weir – a dam shaped like gear teeth – then a nature-like channel.

Plan now to help save monarch butterflies next summer

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD
Chicago Tribune (TNS)

Let us take a break from early-winter cold to contemplate a summer wonder: the monarch butterfly. A seemingly delicate creature, practically weightless with gossamer-thin wings, it flits and floats like a leaf in the breeze. But each fall, hordes of these black-and-orange insects embark on a journey that puts the most accomplished endurance athletes to shame.

Starting from their summer quarters in the United States and Canada, they set out on the long trip to southwestern Mexico, an astonishing feat of stamina and navigational skill. Once there, they will live out their brief lives and produce the next generation, which will begin the return trip in spring. It takes successive generations to make it all the way north.

The butterflies are far more rugged than they look. But while they can cope with wind, rain, heat and distance, they are less able to overcome the hurdles erected by humans.

Loss of habitat, elimination of the milkweed plants they feed on, exposure to insecticides and climate change have combined to devastate their population. Today, there are only 60 million in all of North America, compared with 384 million in 1996. California, which once had millions, now has only a couple of thousand.

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is well-aware of the embattled state of the monarch. In a September report, it concluded that "monarch viability is declining and is projected to continue declining over the next 60 years." It also found that "at the current and projected low population numbers, both the eastern and western populations are more vulnerable to catastrophic events (e.g., extreme storms at the overwintering habitat) than in the past."

But last month, the agency announced that it would not add these butterflies to the endangered species list – even as it candidly acknowledged that they are indeed endangered.

The problem is that so many other species are at even greater risk – 161 in all – and the FWS has to focus its efforts on them, at least for the time being. As Lori Nordstrom, assistant regional director for ecological services for the FWS's Midwest region, explained, "We have to work within the funding resources that we have."

That's not the last word, though, for Illinois' state insect. The agency says it will review the monarch's condition yearly and plans to put it on either the "endangered" or "threatened" list in 2024 if things don't improve.

Fortunately, there is reason to hope things will improve. Widespread concern about these beloved butterflies has spawned efforts to give them a hand.

Antonio Perez / Chicago Tribune

A monarch butterfly spreads its wings at Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park in 2019.

A regional plan calls for adding 1.3 billion milkweed stems, including 150 million in Illinois by 2038. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has launched programs to provide technical and financial help to farmers who are willing to plant milkweed and other nectar-rich plants, shield them from exposure to pesticides and adopt other conservation practices that work to the benefit of monarchs.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is doing its part, using new mowing methods meant to restore milkweed to thousands of miles roadsides. "As one of the largest land owners in the state, IDOT appreciates its tremendous responsibility to act as stewards of the environment," Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn said in 2017. "This simple change in our maintenance obligations will have little impact on the traveling public but will give a big assist to Mother Nature at no cost to the state." In addition, close to 20,000 acres have been added to the state network of protected lands since 2014.

But the rest of us, no matter where we live, can also advance this worthy cause. "We can make a huge difference by getting milkweeds and native flowering plants into city gardens, city parks, vacant lots, all sorts of places where we can grow habitat," Doug Stotz, who serves on the steering committee of the Illinois Monarch Action Plan, told Tribune reporter Morgan Greene.

You don't have to have acres of land to make a contribution. A patch in your yard or a pot on your porch can be planted with milkweed. Yes, it's the end of December, but never too early to plan for spring.

It would undoubtedly help the monarchs for the federal government to give them all the help and protection they could get from being placed on the endangered species list. What would be even better is if all our collective efforts made it unnecessary.

hp FOCUS

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Giving blood comes with perks

Andy Steinke

For the longest time, I've been meaning to donate blood. This week, I finally did it.

I don't get sick often, and I'm usually a pretty fast healer, so maybe I have unusually good blood, I thought. It couldn't hurt to share some of it with others.

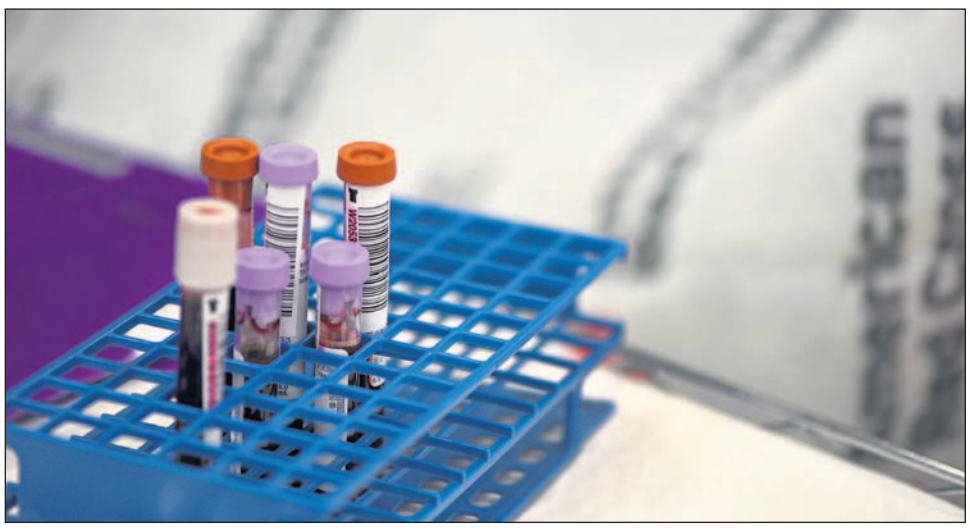
From the emails I receive at the office, I know blood supplies are usually down around the holidays, as people have things on their minds besides donating blood. Between that and the ongoing pandemic cutting into the pool of willing donors, now seemed as good a time as any to make my first donation.

I'm not going to lie, giving blood to American Red Cross came with a few perks (besides that free T-shirt and snacks).

First, Red Cross is testing donations right now for COVID-19 antibodies. Versiti Blood Center of Michigan is, too, if you've given blood to them.

You might remember, over the summer, my wife was sick, and we suspected COVID-19, but her test came back negative. Right as she was getting better, I got sick. For three weeks. I lost almost 20 pounds (and stay lost!). My test also came back negative, but ever since, I've wondered if it was a

See **STEINKE**, page C2



Jeanette Ortiz-Osorio / American Red Cross

After donating blood, a few extra vials are taken for tests.

Photos provided / MrBeast

In 2016, young YouTuber Jimmy Donaldson dropped out of college to try to solve how a video goes viral on YouTube. Now, his videos reach millions of people.

How one North Carolina kid cracked YouTube's secret code

By LUCAS SHAW and MARK BERGEN
Bloomberg News

In the fall of 2016, Jimmy Donaldson dropped out of college to try to solve one of the biggest mysteries in media: How exactly does a video go viral on YouTube?

Donaldson, then 18, had been posting to the site since he was 12 without amassing much of an audience. But he was convinced he was close to unlocking the secrets of YouTube's algorithm, the black box of rules and processes that determines what videos get recommended to viewers.

In the months that followed, he and a handful of his friends tried to crack the code. They conducted daily phone calls to analyze what videos went viral. They gave one another YouTube-related homework assignments, and they pestered successful channels for data about their most successful posts.

"I woke up, I studied YouTube, I studied videos, I studied filmmaking, I went to bed and that was my life," Donaldson recalled during a recent interview.

Then, one day, he was struck with an idea for a video that he was sure would work. It was as simple as counting.

Donaldson sat in a chair and, for the the next 40-plus hours, murmured one number after the next, starting from zero and continuing all the way to 100,000. At the end of the exhausting stunt, he looked deliriously at the camera.

"What am I doing with my life?" he said.

It was an oddly mesmerizing performance, the kind of thing every kid in elementary school thinks about but never tries. The resulting video – entitled "I COUNTED TO 100000!" – was a viral smash. Since its debut on Jan. 8, 2017, it has earned more than 21 million views.

The video helped give rise to one of the unlikeliest success stories on YouTube. Over the past four years, Donaldson's channel, MrBeast, has amassed more than 48 million subscribers. In the 28 days before this article published, people have spent more than 34 million hours watching his videos.

Jimmy Donaldson started posting to YouTube in 2012, but it was a video of counting to 100,000 in 2017, that helped propel him to his current online fame.

On Dec. 12, MrBeast was named Creator of the Year at the Streamy Awards, YouTube's equivalent of the Oscars.

The consistent success of MrBeast's videos has gotten the attention of the YouTube establishment. Last year, every video he posted eclipsed 20 million views. Such consistency is unparalleled, even among YouTube's biggest stars.

"He lives on a different planet than the rest of the YouTube world," said Casey Neistat, a filmmaker turned YouTuber.

Donaldson, now 22, has a baby face and a patchy goatee. He speaks with an aw-shucks modesty and doesn't do many interviews. But the restraint quickly fades away when he starts talking about YouTube.

"Once you know how to make a video go viral, it's just about how to get as many out as possible," he said. "You can practically make unlimited money. The videos take months of prep. A lot of them take four to five days of relentless filming. There's a reason other people don't do what I do."

Unlike many first-wave YouTube stars, who were actors, screenwriters, models and singers hoping someday to break into traditional industries, Donaldson has only ever aspired to YouTube stardom. He wakes up every day thinking about the perfect videos, with an exactitude that borders on monomania.

At 12, he created his first two YouTube channels. In one, he filmed himself playing the video game Call of Duty. In the other, he played Minecraft. He named both channels using a riff on Beast, his Xbox playing handle.

Over time, he grew increasingly curious about the site's economics. At one point, he filmed a series of videos estimating the earnings of top creators, starting with PewDiePie, the long-reigning king of YouTube.

Donaldson's first check from YouTube arrived when MrBeast crossed 10,000 subscribers. It wasn't a windfall. For the first few years, he filmed every video on his phone. He lacked a microphone and his laptop crashed frequently.

After high school, Donaldson went to college briefly at the request of his mom, who'd raised him and his siblings on her own. But he soon dropped out without telling her and turned to his preferred pastime: making YouTube videos.

"I didn't have much money, so I wanted to do something big," he said.

The success of the counting video taught him an important lesson. While many of his friends were interested in getting the most views with the least effort, he wanted to convey to the audience how hard he was working.

His stunts grew more extravagant. He watched a fellow YouTuber's rap video on loop for 10 hours. He spent 24 hours in a prison, then an insane asylum, then a deserted island.

The views on his videos, which are YouTube's primary currency, started to snowball. In his first six years on the site, he had generated just 6 million views.

See **YOUTUBE**, page C2

Staying positive, setting goals for 2021

Pat Arter
Generations

Happy New Year!

Recently, I have been feeling a bit sorry for myself, thinking about all the things I can't do right now. Sometime over this last long weekend I told myself to snap out of it. While I don't always listen to myself, I knew I had to do something to change my current mindset.

The first thing I did was think about the things I most enjoy doing. Camping, cooking (and eating), going out for dinner with friends, baseball ...

OK, so some of those things are not realistic right now. But I found in that mix some things I can do.

Last summer, our camping season started very late due to this pandemic. But beginning this week, we can start making reservations at our favorite campgrounds. We've made a list, and that gives us something to look forward to.

I've been doing lots of cooking (and eating), and I'm now thinking of new things we can try. As always with the start of a new year, we are bombarded with commercials to achieve our goals, make resolutions, "new year, new you." Been there, done that.

Then I remembered I have at my fingertips a resource to help me make some decisions. I went to campusforcreativeaging.org and found "Classes." The list of classes coming up is awesome.

I'm personally excited about one of the cooking classes, but there is a great variety, from food to computers and much more. I encourage you to take a look.

Campus for Creative Aging Coordinator Amy Nichols asked me to share some New Year's news from the campus.

"I hope that the new year finds you all safe and happy," she said. "While thinking about my own New Year's resolutions, I was reminded by a friend that maybe we shouldn't set another hollow resolution that we will inevitably give up on. Instead, we should just set a goal or two to strive for throughout the year. Write it down, and hang it up somewhere you will see it often.

"If one of your goals is to learn something new," she said, "we can help with that! Just visit our website for an extensive class listing. This week's offerings include our popular cooking class, Healthy Cooking with Chris."

Also happening through the Campus for Creative Aging is a caregiver support group, offered by Caring Circle of Lakeland. You don't have to do this alone. Caring for a loved one can be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. At times it can also be overwhelming, challenging and lonely.

See **GENERATIONS**, page C2

PET OF THE WEEK

Fuzz is a 2-year-old Lionhead rabbit looking for a new home. He is very sociable and adventurous. He and his rabbit friends are "hopping" to be adopted soon. For more information, or to adopt him, contact Save A Stray at 921-0145.

Repetition in prayer can be meaningful

David M. Schell
Insights

At my church, we pray the Lord's Prayer every Sunday. It's the same words every week.

The Lord's Prayer is part of my morning and evening prayers, when I pray them.

To some, this repetition may seem to fly in the face of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:7 against using "vain repetitions."

But I have not found this repetition to be empty.

In my evening prayers, when I pray them, there is a prayer of confession of sin. With others around the world praying their evening prayers according to the Book of Common Prayer, I confess that I have sinned against God, through my own fault, "in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone."

The same words. Every time.

But I have not found this repetition to be empty.

When I pray the Lord's Prayer, I try to pray it slowly, listening for how Christ's millennia-old words are my own, and how they speak to me.

Am I trying to build my own kingdom? My prayer adjusts my intentions: "Thy Kingdom Come." Am I anxious for my country or for the world? "May thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

When I confess my sins, sometimes I lay in my bed pondering the prayer I pray: "I have sinned against God in thought and word and deed, and what I have left undone."

I ask, "How have I sinned in my thoughts? In my words? In my deeds? What have I thought, or said, or done, that harmed others? What have I not thought or said or done, that my failure to do it harmed others?"

Sometimes, while I pray my prayers and think back on my day, I recognize patterns. Thoughts, words and deeds (and those I left undone, unsaid and unthought) come back to me. I remember how my toddler wanted me to play with him and I was busy, or how my wife was stressed because I did not carry an equal share of the child care and household duties that day.

This question is not intended to fill me with guilt. In my prayer book, the next line says, "May the Almighty God grant us forgiveness of all our sins, and the grace and comfort of the Holy Spirit. Amen."

I read it and take in God's forgiveness. And, sometimes, I pray for the strength and energy to live into my intentions tomorrow better than I did today.

If we allow them to bend our hearts, good, repeated prayers can go from meaningless repetition to words that change our hearts.

The repetition is only vain (empty, meaningless) if we let it be.

Today's Insights was written by the Rev. David Schell, pastor at Fairplain Presbyterian Church. Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

VOLUNTEERS

Friendly callers

The Region IV Area Agency on Aging is looking for volunteers to make a few friendly calls to area seniors.

Many of the systems these older adults rely on for companionship and social interaction were put on pause thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, AAA launched a Friendly Caller Program for seniors who need someone to talk to.

Volunteers make regular "check-in" calls while seniors are staying home during the pandemic. They will provide reassurance, help connect seniors to information about services they may need, and make sure they aren't feeling lonely or isolated.

Training will be provided. A background check is required.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Get behind the wheel

Senior Nutrition Services/Meals on Wheels of Southwest Michigan needs drivers in the South Haven area on Wednesdays and Fridays for about two hours a day.

All applicants will need to fill out forms. They will be asked to sign a confidentiality and HIPAA form, and undergo background checks. They must own a reliable vehicle that can accommodate large coolers/hot boxes that contain meals.

Pets aren't allowed to accompany volunteers on their routes, for the safety of seniors.

For questions, contact Renee at 925-0137.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

A media guru

United Christian Services serves residents in Van Buren County, and the need for its services are growing.

So, it's on the hunt for a guru to help manage its social media presence and website.

Interested volunteers can contact Alison at alison.ucs@gmail.com.

Groundskeeper

The PARCOURSE groundskeeper assistant at Lakeland Hospital, Watervliet will be responsible for basic upkeep of the outdoor fitness course.

They will pick up and dispose of litter and trash from the grounds, keep asphalt paths and wheelchair-accessible pads clear of debris (gravel, mulch, grass clippings, etc.), and rake mulch smooth so it's without ruts and dips.

Other duties will be assigned as needed to keep the PARCOURSE looking neat, clean and safe for users.

United Way
United Way of Southwest Michigan

The Herald-Palladium, in conjunction with the United Way of Southwest Michigan, publishes volunteer opportunities every Saturday.

To view all current listings, please visit **volunteer.uwsm.org.**

Shifts are 2-4 hours, once a week, Mondays through Fridays.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years old, but preferably 18 or older.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Garden attendants

Do you love being outdoors?

Are you looking to fulfill volunteer community service hours?

The Krasl Art Center needs hard-working volunteers to help maintain its Sculpture Garden and surrounding grounds.

Volunteers will assist the facilities manager, and are encouraged to bring a friend or work in small teams of two to four people.

Shifts are 1-2 hours, and can be worked into volunteers' schedules.

For more information, contact Teri at volunteer@krasl.org.

To sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

An After School Experience

Youth Development Company/PAL is seeking volunteer tutors for its After School Experience.

Volunteers should have a passion for working with children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Those who have an hour to help children with homework, tutor or lend an empathetic ear to someone who maybe had a rough day are encouraged to volunteer.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Help foster families

Foster Closet of Michigan – Berrien County provides free items to foster families and children.

The items help rebuild foster children's lives by giving them something to call their own, and it helps relieve some of the financial strain on foster parents.

Volunteers are needed to help open the closet's doors to the public.

The closet is open twice a week for two hours.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.

United Way of Southwest Michigan mobilizes the caring power of communities to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person. Volunteering your time and talent to create lasting solutions that improve life for everyone is an important part in United Way accomplishing this work. Volunteer today and join the fight, by visiting www.uwsm.org.

STEINKE

From page C1

false negative.

If it turns out I did have COVID-19, I could help COVID patients later by making a convalescent plasma donation.

Second, I don't know my blood type. I asked my doctor if he could tell me (he's always asking for blood), but he said it wasn't part of the tests he ordered. I asked my mom if she knew, but she didn't have it on file either.

My doctor said he could order a test, but it would cost money. Red Cross, however, will tell you for free (sold!) if you're willing to part with a pint. It seemed like a sweet deal to me.

Third, because the need for blood is "critical," Red Cross is sweetening the pot right now. Anyone who gives blood or platelets this month is entered into a drawing for a getaway to Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles in 2022. And anyone who gives between Jan. 1 and 20 also could win a "Big Game at Home" package, which includes a 65-inch TV and a $500 gift card.

I don't think I need to explain why either of those is a good reason to give blood.

If you've thought about giving blood, but aren't sure what the process is like, it's actually pretty simple. You can sign up for a time slot online in advance, or, if the drive isn't full, you can simply walk in and offer to give blood on the day of the drive.

I did the former, because I preferred having an appointment. Then, I downloaded the Blood Donor App so I could save time at check-in.

After having my temperature checked and signing in at the front desk, I went back to the donation room, where Scott pricked my finger to check my hemoglobin level. I wasn't sure what a good hemoglobin level was, but apparently 15.2 was good enough to donate blood (self high five).

When Scott was done asking me a few questions, Ana took me over to one of the donation tables. She told me to lie down, found a vein, swabbed my arm and handed me a stress ball wrapped in a medical glove. She stuck the needle in my arm, and told me to squeeze and release the stress ball every four seconds.

After just a few minutes, one of the other attendants told me I was halfway there. Before I knew it, I was done. I must be a fast bleeder (maybe that's not a good thing), because I beat someone else who started before me.

Paula disconnected me from my donation bag and took a few vials of blood for testing. And that was it. She bandaged my arm, told me I was free to have a T-shirt and a snack, and I could go.

The whole process, which included a little waiting before and after donating, lasted an hour. My arm isn't even bruised.

If you'd like to give blood, for whatever reason, we publish blood drives every Wednesday in the paper and online. In my opinion, it's worth an hour of your time.

Andy Steinke is features editor at The Herald-Palladium. Email him at asteinke@TheHP.com, or follow him on Twitter @Decoding Dadhood.

GENERATIONS

From page C1

The goal of this group is to allow participants to talk with others who are experiencing the same joys and challenges caregivers face, to cope with the demands of caregiving, to give and receive encouragement, and to be empowered and strengthened as a caregiver.

The free meetings are from 1-2 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month via Zoom. To register, call Amy at 982-7748. A link will be sent to you upon registration.

So, take a little time to select your goals. Big or small, focus on reaching them one step at a time. Share your goals with someone, and ask that someone to hold you accountable. When you need help, reach out to someone. When you realize a goal, celebrate!

I'm probably not done with occasionally feeling sorry for myself. This is a difficult time, and we all need to do our best to take care of ourselves. But I'm looking forward to some things now and feel better equipped to find ways to stay positive.

Take this first step in doing something for yourself, by writing down some goals. Then, a step at a time, move toward each of them.

Let's make the very best of this new year.

Pat Arter is senior volunteer program director of Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Southwest Michigan. Questions on age or independence services? Call the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 or visit www.areaagencyonaging.org. The Generations column appears each Saturday in The Herald-Palladium.

YOUTUBE

From page C1

But at the age of 18, with his full attention on YouTube, he earned 122 million annual views. At 19, he attracted more than 460 million. He now generates 4 billion views a year.

"The beauty of YouTube is double the effort isn't double the views, it's like 10x," he said. "The first million subscribers you get will take years, but the second will come in a few months."

Over time, he deduced more of YouTube's mysteries. Make a clip too long, no one watches or wants to watch another. Make one too short, people won't linger. Use a bad thumbnail photo or title and no one will click.

Donaldson typically makes videos that are between 10 and 20 minutes long. He picks a concept that is easy to communicate in the title – "I Adopted EVERY Dog in a Dog Shelter" – and then uses the first 30 seconds to establish the stakes.

His videos often blend three popular YouTube genres. There's the outrageous challenge, such as staying inside a block of ice for a day or being the last one to leave a vat of ramen noodles. There's the celebrity guest appearance: Donaldson often works with other marquee YouTubers, including his favorite, the scientist Mark Rober. And there's the reaction video – MrBeast has a posse of blundering childhood friends who participate in his stunts and generally play the role of hype men.

Donaldson denies having a true formula. The majority of his views don't come from new clips, but from people who stumble on older footage that the site's algorithm has recommended. His real secret, he said, traces back to the video of him counting to 100,000. Viewers are attracted to displays of sheer willpower.

Donaldson now generates tens of millions of dollars in advertising sales from his social media feeds, which include his main channel, a gaming channel and pages on other social media sites. He invests almost every dollar back into his business. In recent years, his average cost of making a single video has climbed to $300,000 from $10,000.

"Money is a vehicle to do bigger videos and make better content," he said.

To date, his priciest video cost $1.2 million. In it, he promised to give $1 million to the contestant who could keep his hand on a stack of cash for the longest period of time. In the end, he felt bad for the three people who didn't get the $1 million, so he gave them some money, too.

These days, many of his stunts have a philanthropic angle. He has given away money to homeless people, to his subscribers, to users of the popular video site Twitch, and to people he met on the street.

He also likes to spend money on ambitious logistical feats. At one point, he wanted to gift an entire island to the winner of a series of challenges. So his team went out, bought an island and refurbished it. Initially, there was no sand, so his employees imported 5,000 pounds of it and created a beach. They also paid someone to build a pier.

"Most YouTubers who make a couple grand buy a Lamborghini," his manager Reed Duchscher said.

Donaldson employs about 50 people, most of whom specialize in logistics and production. One of his dream videos – staging a basketball game in the stratosphere – has so far eluded him.

MrBeast has inspired plenty of imitations and helped give rise to a new, popular aesthetic, which one YouTuber dubbed "junklord." Along the way, Donaldson has aligned himself with a prominent generation of young YouTube dudes who love sophomoric comedy, video games and escalating dares.

In 2019, he staged a series of stunts to help PewDiePie maintain his crown as the YouTube channel with the most subscribers. PewDiePie had created an online campaign to compete with T-Series, an Indian media channel set to dethrone him.

Donaldson rigged office fax lines, purchased billboard advertisements and even went to the Super Bowl to support PewDiePie. The tagline "Subscribe 2 PewDiePie" was later used by the perpetrator of a mass shooting in New Zealand, one of several problematic associations in PewDiePie's recent history. But Donaldson remains a loyal fan.

"He's just really authentic, and it doesn't seem like it's ever gone to his head," Donaldson said of the elder YouTuber.

Duchscher, who also has worked with the YouTube standout Dude Perfect, is pushing Donaldson to invest his money in areas beyond YouTube, preparing for a life after streaming.

On Dec. 19, Donaldson announced a new venture called "Beast Burger." He is partnering with more than 300 restaurants and kitchens across the country that will make burgers based on his instructions – a model known as ghost kitchens.

The MrBeast Burger app soared in popularity. As of early Dec. 21, it was the second most popular free app in the entire iOS store.

Donaldson and Duchscher plan to double their footprint by the end of 2021. Customers can order on delivery apps like Postmates or Grubhub.

A MrBeast consumer line is in the works, and Donaldson, an avid gamer, has also talked about wanting to own an esports team. In just seven months, his side channel devoted to gaming has racked up more than 11 million subscribers.

Yet, try as he might, he can't shake his primary obsession.

"I can't envision a world where I'm not making YouTube videos," he said. "In a perfect world, I live and breathe this, working 12- to 15-hour days until I die."

Engagement, wedding and anniversary announcements

The Herald-Palladium publishes news about engagements, weddings and anniversaries on weekends.

One of the couple must be a resident or former resident of Southwest Michigan to have the announcement published.

Forms are available online at www.TheHP.com/site/forms. Information submitted will be used as space permits.

Photos

Photographs for couples announcements may be published in color for $15. There is no charge for photographs published in black and white.

Announcements that don't specify black and white or color will be printed in black and white.

Need more help? Email focus@TheHP.com.

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Trump supporters hadn't been 'silenced'

Jonah Goldberg

The president of the United States incited a mob. It was a disgraceful, inexcusable, impeachable act.

Donald Trump's defenders offer any number of excuses in order to shave off the shame. The media didn't condemn riots last summer by left-wing groups, and therefore this was inevitable or just desserts or something.

Others simply spread more lies. The people waving Trump flags and shouting "Fight for Trump" who ransacked the U.S. Capitol were actually members of antifa, they claim with no evidence. Some even argue that most of the intruders were peaceful tourists who simply didn't realize that bum-rushing the police and breaking down doors isn't how you visit the Capitol.

It's an insult to our collective intelligence. But there is one argument worth engaging: Trump supporters just want to be "heard."

"You'll never take back our country with weakness. You have to show strength, and you have to be strong," Trump told the throng he invited to Washington on Wednesday. "I know everyone here will soon be marching over to the Capitol building. To peacefully, patriotically make your voices heard."

Trump's praetorians ludicrously claim that the word "peacefully" lets the president off the hook for the violence that followed. First, the whole protest was premised on a mountain of lies about the election being stolen. Convincing people they need to prevent a coup when no such coup exists is a recipe for violence.

Second, this was all foreseeable. After Joe Biden won the election, the rhetoric from many elected Republicans and Trump-aligned goon squads got more and more bellicose. The Arizona GOP's Twitter account, borrowing a line from "Rambo," asked whether people would be willing to die for Trump.

Before Trump spoke at the Wednesday rally, his lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, called for "trial by combat," and Trump's sons whipped up the crowd with exhortations to fight.

Even if the mob had been peaceful, it still would have been a grotesque affront to democracy. Trump's intent, explicitly stated over and over, was for the crowd to pressure the vice president to unconstitutionally overturn the election.

That is what he meant by "make your voices heard."

But the idea that "real Americans" haven't been heard – hammered by the likes of Sens. Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley and countless right-wing populist pundits – has deeper resonance on the right.

What these rationalizers mean by "real Americans" is often left gauzy and ill-defined. The great unheard are variously described as Trump voters, the working class, Christians, conservatives, MAGAs, residents of "flyover" country or simply those opposed to the left-wingers running things. But the common assumption is that being a real American isn't a question of citizenship or even nationality, but a shared sense of right-wing grievance and identity.

Pete Hegseth of Fox News insisted that what unified the pro-Trump crowd was a "feeling" that their voice has been "censored and silenced."

Fox's Tucker Carlson told viewers: "We got to this sad, chaotic day for a reason. It is not your fault. It is their fault."

"Millions of Americans sincerely believe the last election was fake." Carlson explained, without mentioning that they believe this because those millions have been lied to by the president and his defenders. "... 'Listen to us!' screams the population. 'Shut up and do what you're told,' reply their leaders."

As a lifelong conservative, I think the culture war is real, and many conservative complaints about cancel culture, censorship, anti-religious bigotry, etc., have merit. But the people on the other side of those arguments are Americans, too.

Moreover, it's bizarre that so many have convinced themselves that no one listens to people who feel this way. Most conservative media is on the "unheard" beat 24/7. Carlson himself has the highest-rated cable news show on the highest-rated network (where I am a contributor). Trump was elected in 2016, albeit with a minority of the popular vote. Since then, the GOP has contorted itself into a full-time listening operation, and conservative intellectuals have fallen all over themselves to redefine conservatism as a constituent service operation for "real Americans."

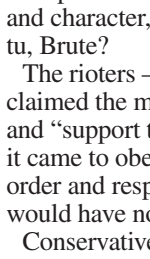
In a democracy, the essential way people make themselves heard is by voting. The GOP actually did quite well on Election Day. But Trump lost.

It's not hard to hear the people saying the election was stolen, starting with the president himself. But just because lies are all too audible or sincerely believed that doesn't make them truths. Nor does it mean they were "silenced." It means they were heard but failed to persuade enough Americans – and that's no excuse to riot.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch.

The conservative's bad bargain

Cal Thomas



The mob violence that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday was deplorable and disgusting. It is the antithesis of a free society that wishes to remain free. Any supporter of President Trump and his policies must denounce this horror with even more vehemence than they denounced the riots of last summer, but the two are not equivalent.

President Trump has stoked these fires of resentment and his weak comments after the breach of the Capitol, which resulted in four deaths and at least 70 arrests, were insufficient and lacked the power of sincerity. In this, President-elect Joe Biden sounded more presidential in his statement. He called it an "insurrection."

Criminal.findlaw.com gives a definition of what happened Wednesday: "Incitement to riot is when a person encourages others to commit a breach of the peace without necessarily acting themselves. This may involve statements, signs, or conduct intended to lead others to riot."

By any fair measurement, President Trump's rhetoric, especially since the November 3 election, has incited people to distrust their own government and the way our leaders are selected. At the extreme, which is what we saw on TV Wednesday and repeated nonstop on cable news, he gave permission, even encouragement, to extremists to practice the kind of behavior they denounce when their political opposites behave this way. He even trashed his loyal vice president. In a tweet he called Mike Pence "weak." Compared to the president's rhetoric and character, Pence is Superman. Et tu, Brute?

The rioters – and the president – have claimed the mantle of "law and order" and "support the police" and yet when it came to obeying the law, preserving order and respecting the police they would have none of it.

Conservatives and evangelical Christians, like myself, have for too long rationalized that ignoring the president's language and behavior was tolerable because of his policies. There comes a time, however (even at this late hour) when one must ask one's self if this was a Faustian bargain that overwhelmed legitimate policy disagreements.

I have been called a traitor, weak, a relic of the past and words unrepeatable in the newspaper because of past criticism of President Trump for lesser things, but in order to retain one's credibility a standard of right and wrong must be sacrosanct. On Wednesday that standard was jettisoned by people who claim to adhere to it.

The excuses, the comparisons with what the left does and the "whataboutisms" won't cut it this time. This is not conservatism. This is not Republicanism. The Republican Party was founded largely as an anti-slavery party. Too many among today's members and among conservatives (not always the same thing) have become enslaved to the person and personality of Donald Trump. This is not hero worship. It is idolatry.

Conservative principles and ideas are not the property of any one person. It is undeniable that President Trump has done many good things for the country, but at what cost?

Republicans have lost their claim to be the party of balanced budgets. Do they also want to lose their claim to be the party of morality and "family values"?

During the 1960 presidential campaign, John F. Kennedy used a line that still rings in my ears since I heard it as a young college student. About his opponent, Richard Nixon and the Eisenhower-Nixon administration, Kennedy said, "We can do better."

We *can* do better than the mob violence that occurred in Washington. We *can* do better when it comes to the way we speak to fellow Americans. And as much as it pains me to say so, because I have flirted at times with making this bargain with the political devils, we can do better than Donald J. Trump.

Cal Thomas is a columnist for Tribune Content Agency.

LETTERS

Warning sirens should not be removed

Editor,

After reading the information in the 2021 Cook Nuclear Plant calendar, I signed up for the Sheriff's Department B-Warn system (doing so is needlessly complicated, in my view). But I still feel the decision by Cook Nuclear Plant and Berrien County Sheriff's Department officials to dismantle warning sirens lacks logic.

I know of two instances where people threw their new calendar in the trash. So how many other people did so, or replaced their 2020 calendar with the 2021 edition, but didn't read it?

So I feel it's naïve for officials to assume everyone who received the calendar read everything, so realize they have to sign up for B-Warn or depend on their mobile phone to utilize the IPAWS system.

One of the steps outlined for people to use IPAWS is to contact their cell phone provider to see if it participates in Wireless Emergency Alerts.

That's another example of assuming everyone who received the calendar read that provision and complies. And what if their cell phone provider doesn't participate in the WEA system?

Another assumption is that everyone with a cell phone always stays close to their phone. I suspect many people don't, which means, for instance, if an emergency at the Cook Nuclear Plant is declared in the middle of the night and someone's cell phone is in the living room, they won't know about the emergency – at least not immediately.

For the record, I have a flip phone I only take with me when I'm traveling out of town, which is rare. The rest of the time, it's in its case in a closet.

And there are people more retro than me who don't have a cell phone, be it a smart phone or not. My "regular" phone is connected to the wall.

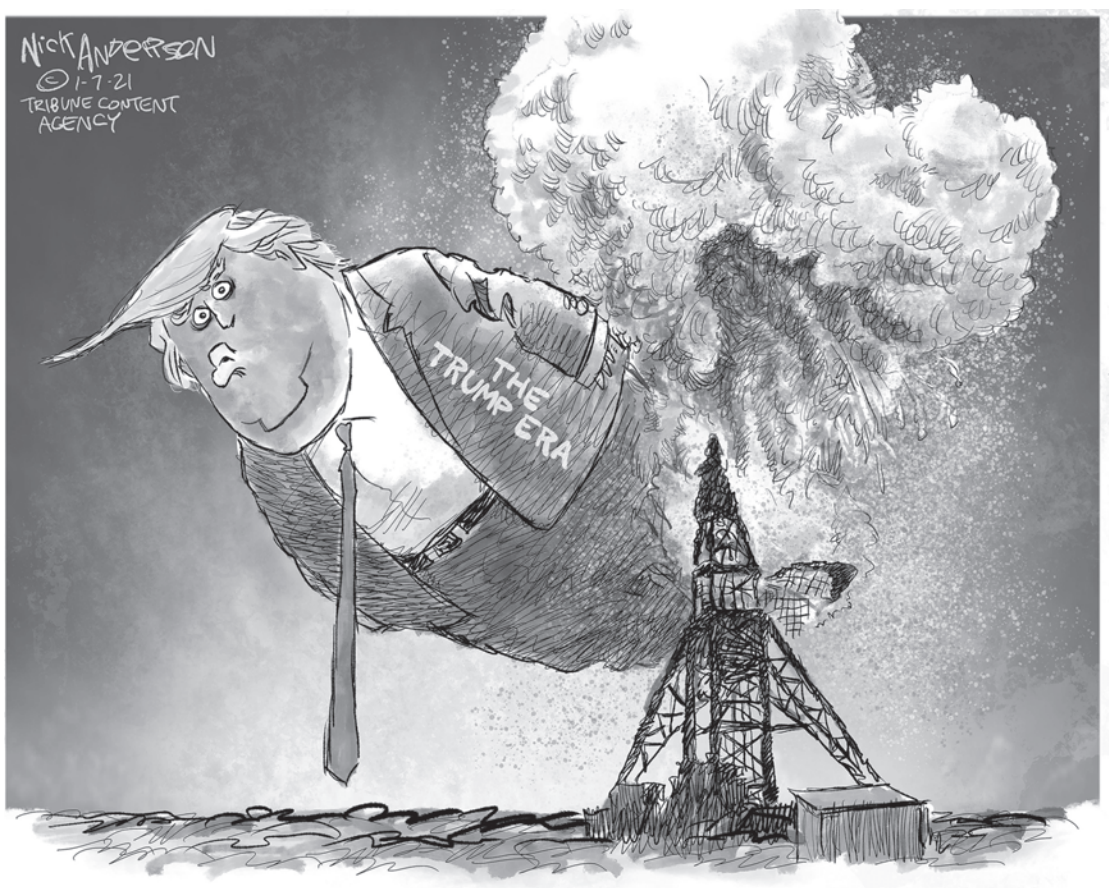
Keeping the warning sirens in operation is a smart back-up. If they sound in the middle of the night, people will know to turn on their TV or radio or now, to check their cell phone.

Again, the sirens should remain as a *back-up*. As it says on page 2 of the calendar, despite some limitations, they "have proven to be a reliable, early-warning system that can reach anyone within the vicinity of the siren."

No football coach says, "I have the best quarterback in the league, so I don't need a back-up quarterback."

Please keep the sirens in operation.

Michael Eliasohn
St. Joseph



Trump enablers share the blame

Editor,

After a mountain of lies and bogus lawsuits that failed to produce any credible evidence of widespread election fraud, "sore loser" Trump has incited a mob of his cult followers to violently attack the U.S. Congress. Why? He simply could not stop the formal, routine certification of the results of the 2020 election, which he lost by a large margin. Trump's benighted "warriors," some of whom carried treasonous Confederate flags, accordingly destroyed property, terrorized elected officials, and committed seditious mayhem on this tyrant's behalf. Several people died. Is Lansing next?

Trump voters and enablers, are you proud? GOP reality deniers, including the Fox Network and many legislators (Josh Hawley, Ted Cruz, et. al.), you helped feed the president's delusions that if he wanted it bad enough and constantly lied about it, he could stay in power by any means he chose. He chose treason. This makes you complicit in the deep damage done to our nation.

Disturbingly, a number of our Michigan elected officials went along with the undermining of our democracy by claiming to be concerned about the "electoral process" by which Joe Biden received millions more popular votes than did Trump, as well as a significant majority of the electoral college votes.

State Sen. Kim LaSata, looking at you, joining 10 other state senators calling for Michigan to "examine the credible allegations" of voter fraud (of which none have been established despite numerous court cases).

Newly-elected U.S. Rep. Lisa McClain (M-10), looking at you, too, joining 26 other incoming House reps to falsely claim that our election process has "devolved into chaos." (McClain replaced Rep. Paul Mitchell, who did not seek re-election and who left the GOP after its refusal to acknowledge Biden's victory.)

In contrast to LaSata and McClain, U.S. Rep. Fred Upton has accepted reality and refused to join the plan to undermine our vital national elections. Thank you for doing your job, sir.

Nancy Braun
Coloma

Trump's supporters blindly follow

Editor,

A day that will live in infamy. In 1932 Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany. Four years later the German people were ready to follow him to ruin. His minister of propaganda proclaimed if you feed the people a lie enough times, they will believe it. Earlier Hitler had written a manifesto "Mein Kamph."

Yesterday the president Donald I bravely exhorted his "patriotic" followers after a speech worthy of Hitler to march the mile and a half to the Capitol, thousands of them. This after Donald II (the Dumb) had admonished Congress he and his father (dear leader) were going to take names and kick --- if they did not bow to their will of overt turning the past election.

I am sure the president (dear leader) who pressed the patriotic mob to walk the mile and a half to the halls of Congress would have walked with these "patriots" if not for two very good reasons. One, he was encased behind bullet proof glass (of which he could figure how to escape) and two, his heel spurs would not permit him that distance.

In the past I've written this paper that I was a Republican, today the fact of that sickens me. Today not only does that sicken me, today I am ashamed to be an American. In less than four years a large portion of us are ready to follow what Germans did starting in 1932. Follow the lies.

Robert A. Becker
Watervliet

ANOTHER OPINION

Garland is right choice to rehabilitate the Justice Department

After four years of a president who regarded the attorney general as his personal lawyer, it was vital that President-elect Joe Biden choose a head of the Justice Department whose independence and professionalism would be beyond dispute. Biden has risen to that challenge with his choice of U.S. Court of Appeals Judge Merrick B. Garland for that position.

Unlike some of the other contenders, Garland wasn't someone who had endorsed Biden – as a federal judge he had to remain above politics. He would also bring to the position an impeccable reputation earned as a prosecutor, Justice Department official and judge. That the Republican-controlled Senate refused to act on President Barack Obama's nomination of Garland to the Supreme Court in 2016 was a travesty.

Even as Republicans refused to consider Garland's Supreme Court nomination – usually on the pretext that Supreme Court vacancies shouldn't be filled in a presidential election year – they couldn't dispute his professional qualifications or his integrity.

U.S. attorneys general have come from a variety of backgrounds. Some were former senators. Some were campaign allies or even relatives of the presidents who appointed them. Others have been former judges.

Different times call for different attributes in an attorney general. These times, like the post-Watergate era, call for an attorney general who has been aloof from politics.

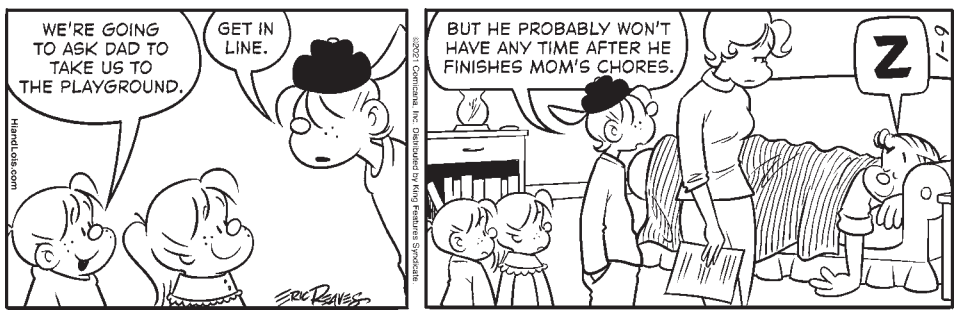
– Los Angeles Times

BEETLE BAILEY

WOW! WE'RE LATE!
WE CAN SLIP IN THROUGH THAT WINDOW
OKAY, LET GO OF MY FEET, KILLER
THOSE AREN'T MY HANDS
1/9
©2021 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

HI & LOIS


WE'RE GOING TO ASK DAD TO TAKE US TO THE PLAYGROUND.
GET IN LINE.
HIandLois.com
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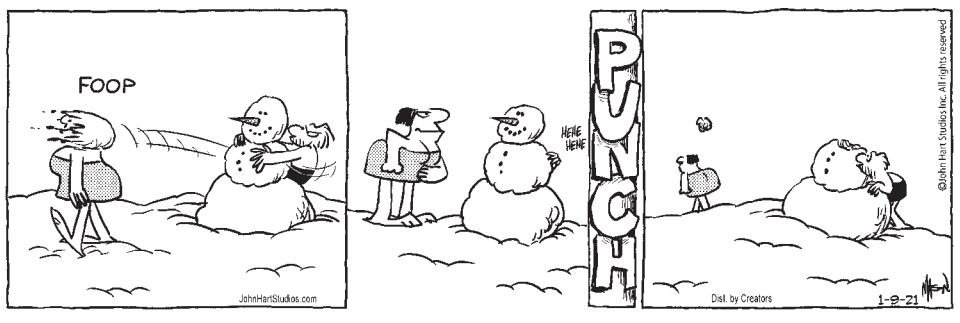
BUT HE PROBABLY WON'T HAVE ANY TIME AFTER HE FINISHES MOM'S CHORES.
Z
1-9
ERIC REYNOLDS

BC



WIZARD OF ID

MAN'S BEST FRIEND
I THOUGHT DOGS WERE MAN'S BEST FRIEND
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
WizardofId.com
EVER BEAT A HASTY RETREAT FROM BATTLE ON A CHIHUAHUA?
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1-9-21
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DILBERT

YOU HAVE OVER SEVEN HUNDRED CONSUMER LAWSUITS FILED AGAINST YOU.
DILBERT.COM
@SCOTTADAMSSAYS
IF I CAN GET THEM ALL ASSIGNED TO THE SAME JUDGE, YOU ONLY HAVE TO BRIBE ONE PERSON.
ARE YOU EVEN A LAWYER?
HEAVENS, NO, AND I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BE INSULTED.
1-9-21
2021 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

GREETINGS!
AND WELCOME TO MY...UH...UM...UHHH...
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD JUST LEAVE
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Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 1-9

FORT KNOX

I GOT A NEW CREDIT CARD.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE AGAINST USING THEM.
I WAS, BUT IT'S TOUGH TO HAVE CASH ON ME ALL THE TIME.
I WILL PAY IT OFF EVERY MONTH THOUGH.
GREAT... HOW?
WITH MY OTHER CREDIT CARDS.
1/09
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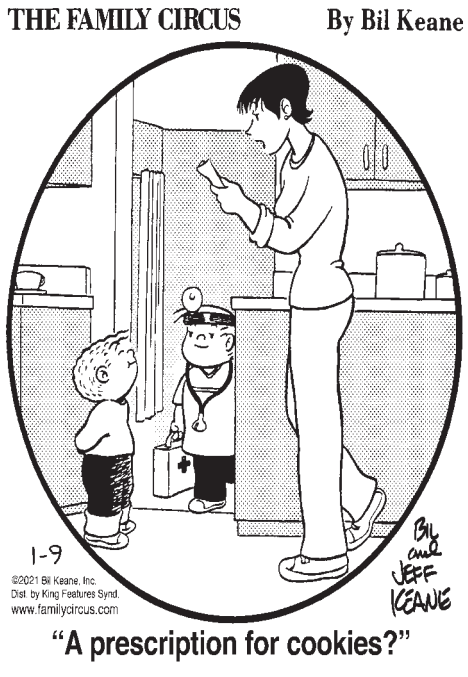
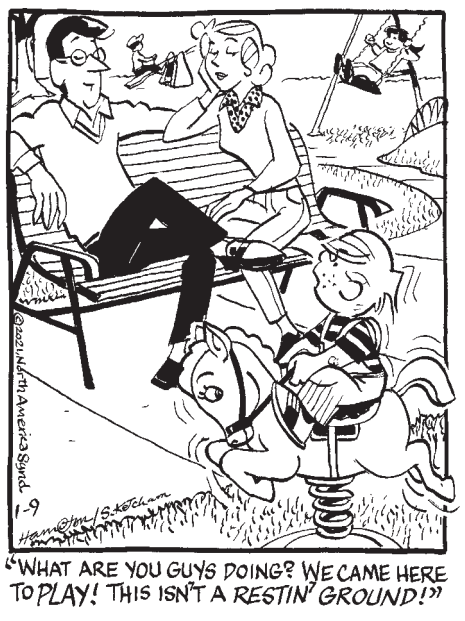
PICKLES

GRAMPA, ARE YOU EATING ICE CREAM OUT OF THE CARTON?
YUP.
WHOA! I DIDN'T KNOW GRAMMA LET YOU DO THAT.
1/9
GRAMMA HAS NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT IT. I AM THE MAN OF THE HOUSE, THE LORD OF THE MANOR.
JUST DON'T TELL GRAMMA ABOUT IT.

FAMILY CIRCUS



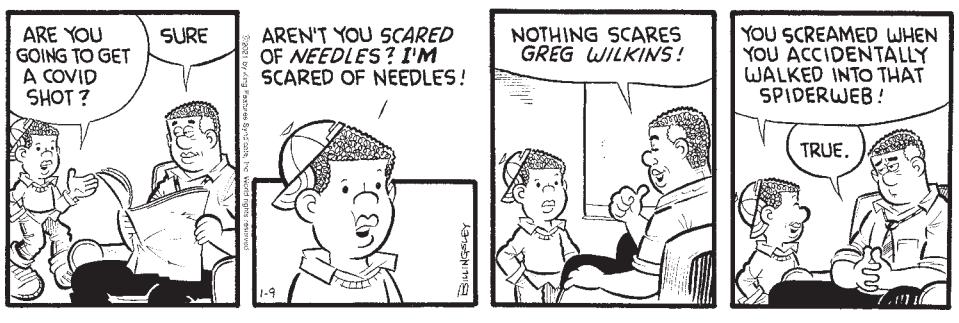
DENNIS THE MENACE



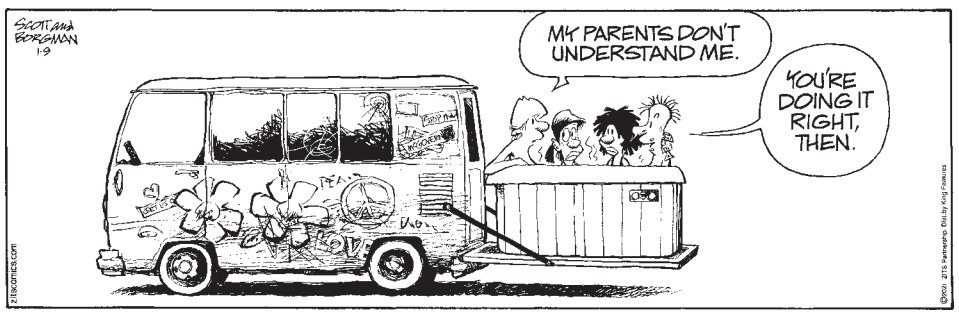
BABY BLUES

DAD, I NEED SOME ADVICE.
GOOD, SOLID, DOWN-TO-EARTH ADVICE.
HOW CAN I HELP?
TELL ME WHERE I CAN FIND MOM.
1-9
DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

CURTIS


ARE YOU GOING TO GET A COVID SHOT?
SURE
AREN'T YOU SCARED OF NEEDLES? I'M SCARED OF NEEDLES!
1-9
NOTHING SCARES GREG WILKINS!
YOU SCREAMED WHEN YOU ACCIDENTALLY WALKED INTO THAT SPIDERWEB!
TRUE.

ZITS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

SO, AFTER LISTENING TO ME DESCRIBE MY PROBLEMS AT HOME, WHAT WOULD YOU ADVISE?
HAVE ANOTHER DRINK!
HE GIVES THE BEST ADVICE!
1-9
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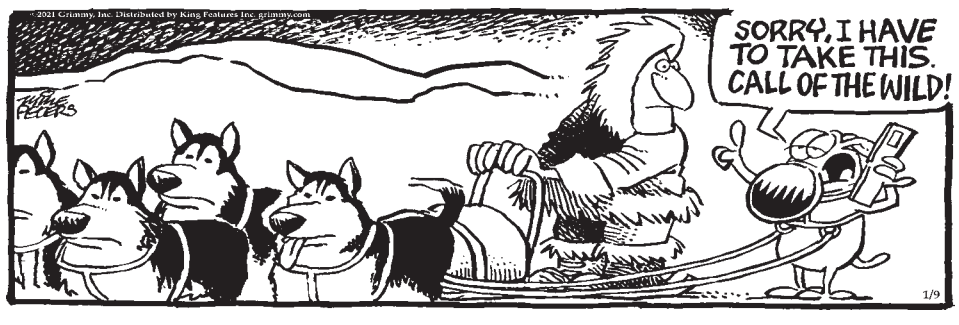
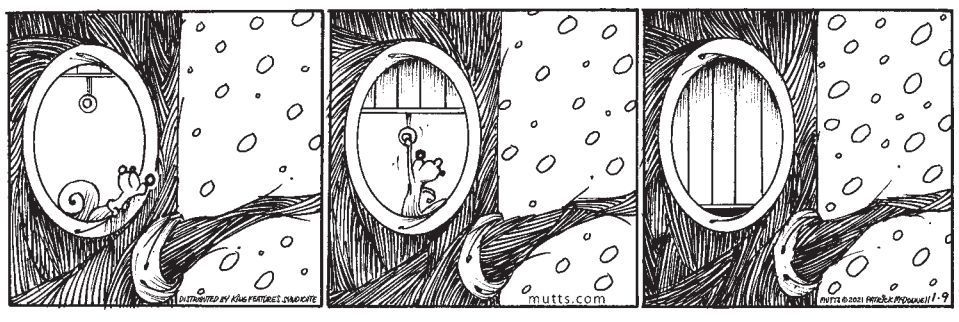
BROWNE

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM



MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

HEADING OUTSIDE?
YEAH...
KEEFE
©2021 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
FAYE AND I ARE GONNA BUILD KILLER ROBOT SNOWMEN ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE FRONT YARD AND THEN HAVE THEM ATTACK EACH OTHER BY US THROWING SNOWBALLS.
1-9
BUT THEY'RE JUST GOING TO ATTACK EACH OTHER, RIGHT? THEY'RE NOT GOING TO TURN ON THE HOUSE?
THEY'RE SNOWMEN, MOM. WOW, THE BACKYARD WEREWOLF STATUES HAVE REALLY HAD A LINGERING EFFECT ON YOU, HUH?

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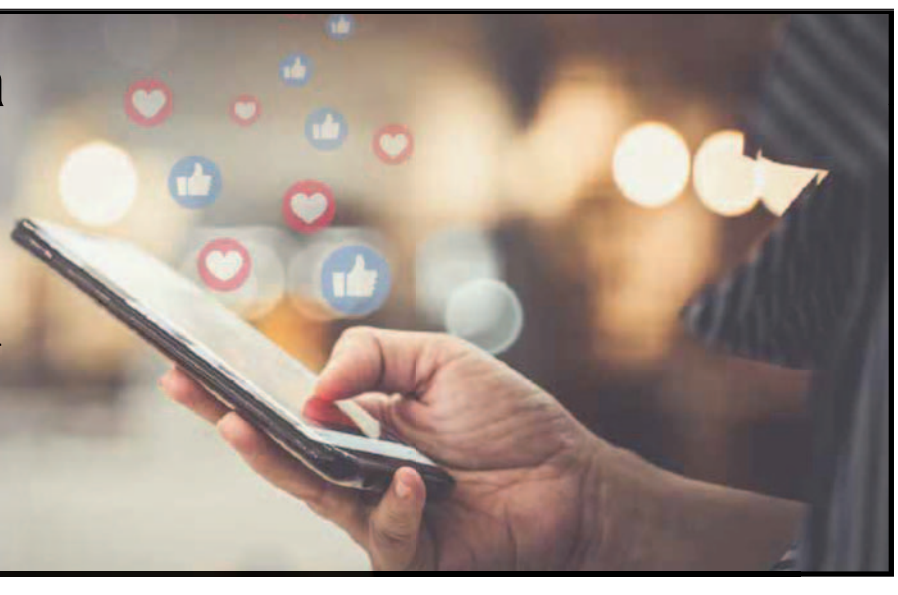

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PRIME TIME TV

SATURDAY EVENING JAN. 9

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7)(13)(41)(57)	Wheel of Fortune	America's Funniest Home Videos		Shark Tank CC (DVS)		The Good Doctor CC (DVS)	
CBS (2)(3)(22)	The NFL Today (N)	NFL Football AFC or NFC Wild Card: Teams TBA. Opening matchups on the road to the Super Bowl. (N) (L) CC					
NBC (5)(8)(16)	Ac. Hollywood	Mr. Mayor "Pilot"	Mr. Mayor	Dateline NBC (N) CC		Saturday Night Live (N) CC	
FOX (17)(22)(28)(32)	To Be Announced	Hell's Kitchen "Welcome to Vegas"		The Masked Dancer CC (DVS)		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS (34)	Lawrence Welk	As Time Goes By	As Time Goes By	Antiques Roadshow "American Stories"		Frankie Drake Mysteries CC (DVS)	
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	News	Friends CC
MNT (50)	Graham Bensinger	Dateline "Missing Marie" CC		Dateline A woman's truck explodes.		Storm of Suspicion "Puddle Proof"	
WCIU (26)	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland CC (DVS)		Murdoch Mysteries CC		Murdoch Mysteries CC	
WGN (9)	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)	
A&E	:00 Most Daring	Most Daring Dumb criminals. CC		Most Daring Youthful mayhem. CC		:01 Most Daring CC	
AMC	Matrix Revol.	★★★ The Matrix ('99) Keanu Reeves, Laurence Fishburne. A computer hacker learns his world is a computer simulation. CC					
Animal	Pit Bulls	Pit Bulls-Parole		Pit Bulls and Parolees "Invisible Enemy"			
BET	Welcome	★★ Tyler Perry's Meet the Browns ('08) CC					Roll
Big Ten	To Be Announced					B1G Basketball in 60	
Bravo	It's Complicated	7:48 ★★ Sweet Home Alabama ('02, Romance-Comedy) Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas. CC					Sweet Home
Cartoon	Gumball	Final Sp.	American	American	American	Rick	Rick
Cinemax	The Doors	★★★ Munich ('05) Eric Bana. Israelis hunt the terrorists behind 1972's Munich massacre. CC					★★ The Kingdom
CMT	Road	:15 ★★★ Smokey and the Bandit ('77) CC					Smokey II
CNBC	Boss	Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss	
CNN	Situation	Situation Room		Situation Room		Jimmy Carter	
Comedy	:00 ★ Rush Hour 3 ('07)			★★ Get Hard ('15) Will Ferrell. CC			
Discovery	Expedition Un.	Mystery at Blind Frog Ranch Duane gains access to a cave system. (N) CC				Expedition Unknown CC	
Disney	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Big City	Gabby	Gabby
DIY	Maine	Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters	
E!	:15 ★★ Monster-in-Law ('05) CC				★★ The Proposal ('09)		
ESPN	TBA	College Basketball Teams TBA. (N) (L)				To Be Announced	
ESPN2	Basket	College Basketball Teams TBA. (N) (L)				College Basketball	
ESPNC	Basket	College Basketball CC				College Basketball	
Food	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners	Diners
Fox News	Life	Watters' World (N)		Justice With Jeanine		Greg Gutfeld	
Fox Sports	Icons	Spotlight	Focused	World Poker		Shogun Fights	
Freefrm	The Hunger Games: Catching Fire ('13)	★★★ The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 ('14) Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson. CC					
FX	6:00 ★★★ The Martian ('15) Matt Damon. CC			★★ Jurassic World ('15, Adventure) Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard. CC			
Golf	PGA Golf	Golf Central (N)		PGA Golf			
Hallmark	:00 One Winter Weekend ('18, Romance) Taylor Cole. CC			A New Year's Resolution ('21) Aimee Teagarden, Michael Rady. (P). CC			
HBO	★ Walk of Shame	★★★ The King of Staten Island ('20) Pete Davidson. An aimless slacker lives with his single mother.					:20 30 Coins
History	Buried	Rise of Empires:		Rise of Empires:		Rise of Empires:	
HGTV	Love-List	Chateau		Fixer to Fabulous		Fixer to Fabulous	
Learning	My 600-	My 600-Lb. Life Samantha is close to dying.				1000-Lb. Sisters (N)	
Lifetime	Nightmare	Obsessed With the Babysitter ('21, Suspense) Kristen Vaganos. (P). CC				:03 Babysitter's Nightmare ('18) CC	
MSNBC	Voices	Week-Johnson		Week-Johnson		American Voices	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Short List	World Class Championship Boxing				Fight Sports MMA	
NFL	NFL GameDay High.	NFL Football Teams TBA. CC					
Nick	Hustle	Hustle	Hustle	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Port	Port Protection		Port Protection		Port Protection	
Oxygen	:00 Florida Man Murders (Series (P)) (N)			Criminal Confessions What happened to Shanann Watts. CC			Florida Man
Parmt	The Italian Job ('03)		★★ The Day After Tomorrow ('04, Action) CC				
Showtime	Shameless	Shameless Debbie loses track of Franny.		★★★ Hereditary ('18, Horror) Toni Collette, Gabriel Byrne. (P). CC			
Starz	American Gods	:07 ★★★ Chicago ('02) Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger. CC				:04 Power Book II: Ghost CC	
STZENC	:11 ★★ Maid in Manhattan ('02) Jennifer Lopez. CC			★★★ Sleepless in Seattle ('93) Tom Hanks, Meg Ryan, Bill Pullman. CC			
SyFy	6:30 ★★★ John Wick ('14)		★★★ John Wick: Chapter 2 ('17, Action) Keanu Reeves, Common, Laurence Fishburne. CC (DVS)				
TBS	★★ The Equalizer	:15 ★★ Fast & Furious 6 ('13) Vin Diesel, Paul Walker. Hobbs offers Dom and crew a full pardon for their help. CC					
TCM	King Kong ('33)	★★★★ North by Northwest ('59) Cary Grant. A case of mistaken identity endangers an ad agent's life.					Saboteur
TMC	★★ Forsaken ('15, Western) Kiefer Sutherland. CC			★★★ The Witch ('15, Horror) Anya Taylor-Joy. CC			Re-Animator
TNT	Justice	★★★ Wonder Woman ('17, Action) Gal Gadot. CC (DVS)					
Travel	Ghost	Most Terrifying		Ghost Nation (N)		Kindred Spirits (N)	
TV Land	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
USA	:45 ★★★ Avengers: Age of Ultron ('15) Robert Downey Jr. The Avengers reassemble to battle a technological villain.						Ant-Man ('15)
VH1	Daddy	★ Obsessed ('09, Suspense) Idris Elba. CC					Acrimony
WGN-A	:00 Blue Bloods	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Far-flung family makes little effort to stay in touch

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a 72-year-old divorcee. I live alone in a 55-and-older community where I have many friends and an active life.

My three adult children are ages 37 to 43. The eldest lives out of the country with my 12-year-old grandson. My other son and his wife live 2,000 miles away and have two young children, one of whom I saw once three years ago. My daughter lives with her husband an hour and a half away. I see them about twice a year.

My daughter will sometimes answer an email or text, sometimes not. My sons almost never contact me, not even on my birthday or Mother's Day. From what I understand, they have little communication with their father or each other, either.

Is this normal? It breaks my heart. This isn't how I raised them. I always encouraged them to maintain a relationship with their father and their grandmother. Is there anything I can do? – So Sad In The East

DEAR SO SAD: I'm sorry for your heartache, and there IS something you can do. Concentrate on your friends, people who are willing to return your emotional investment. You should also ignore Mother's Day, which is an emotionally loaded holiday that causes pain not only to mothers like you, but also to those who have recently lost their mothers. I think you have suffered enough, don't you?

DEAR ABBY: My mother-in-law, "Gladys," has never liked to shop from a gift list. She prefers to look on her own for a gift she thinks the person would like. My problem is, most of the things she buys are atrocious.

My husband and I are expecting our first child – her first grandchild – and although we sent her the link, she has already purchased items not on our registry. I am gracious, Abby. I thank her verbally and follow up with a note in the mail. However, we don't have enough room for all the items to use just when she visits, so I plan to quietly return or donate them.

When she's here and asks why we're not using her gifts, what do I say? I'd prefer not to lie and say something like "the dog chewed it up," nor do I want to be brutally honest and tell her I found the things she bought too ugly. – Mom-In-Waiting

DEAR MOM-IN-WAITING: Find a wide, shallow box that will fit under a bed. Select some of the "atrocious" gifts and use them when Grandma Gladys comes to visit. If she asks why you're not using all of them, explain that because you already had some of the gifts she sent, you donated hers to a needy family who could enjoy them. (It's a diplomatic version of the truth.)

DEAR ABBY: I'm a single woman in my 30s, not a Mrs. and too young for Ma'am. Am I a Ms.? What do they all stand for? – In Between M's

DEAR IN BETWEEN: You qualify for "Ms.," if you wish to use it. As you know, "Miss" is the term used to denote an unmarried woman. After consciousness was raised regarding equal rights for women, some began using "Ms." in the workplace when they preferred not to reveal their marital status. Traditionally, in the South, women over 21 are called "Ma'am" as a sign of respect. Farther north it's applied to mature women, although not all of them appreciate hearing it directed at them.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Can you avoid spending money without being viewed as cheap?

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: What is the best way for my family to try to spend zero discretionary money, due to a most likely job layoff, without having to tell everyone in our circle?

The last few months friends have wondered why we don't want to join them for anything that costs money, but I don't see why a possible layoff is any of their business.

From the outside, it probably looks like we are just extraordinarily cheap people currently with a good income. Any good way to not offend all our friends without telling them the whole truth? – Not Cheap

DEAR NOT CHEAP: This was a pre-pandemic question that now has a ridiculously easy answer: "We're not doing anything for the near future. Nothing personal."

But there's still the issue, always, of deciding what your priorities are and recognizing there are times when you have to sacrifice your lower priorities to preserve a higher one.

In this case, is keeping your financial situation private your top priority? Then it's going to cost you some closeness to and companionship from your friends. Are closeness and companionship your priorities? Then they're going to cost you some of your privacy.

You can certainly try the little-of-both method, and find ways to answer your friends' queries with a general version of the truth that omits the specifics you don't want to share: "We're on a radical financial diet," for example.

Ideally people have the good manners not to pry, but a statement like that is the kind of thing a good friend might ask about – so be ready to answer their follow-ups. "I'd rather not get into it" or, "Just looking down the road" or, "Resetting our habits" are all neutral responses you can have at the ready.

Again, the new state of things – early 2021 vs. late 2019 – means you won't really need to explain anything to anyone paying attention.

The theme of my answer has been that you absolutely don't have to tell people your business. However, I don't mean to suggest there's any shame in a potential layoff. If that's any part of your motivation to stay mum, then please reconsider. Good friends want to know, understand, and help.

REGARDING LAYOFF: As someone who has been laid off twice, I'd like to offer some emotional support.

Layoffs have such a stigma, because you feel that if you were more critical in the workplace, then you wouldn't be let go. Please don't assume others will think poorly of you or judge you.

Layoffs and other job losses are *so common* and I can guarantee someone you are avoiding telling has been through one.

You can absolutely say you are cutting back financially without disclosing why, but if the layoff happens, know that most people will sympathize. – Anonymous

DEAR ANONYMOUS: I see your 2019 "*so common*" and raise you a 2020 SWEET HOLY HELL. But the compassion is timeless, thank you – toward others and as well as ourselves.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

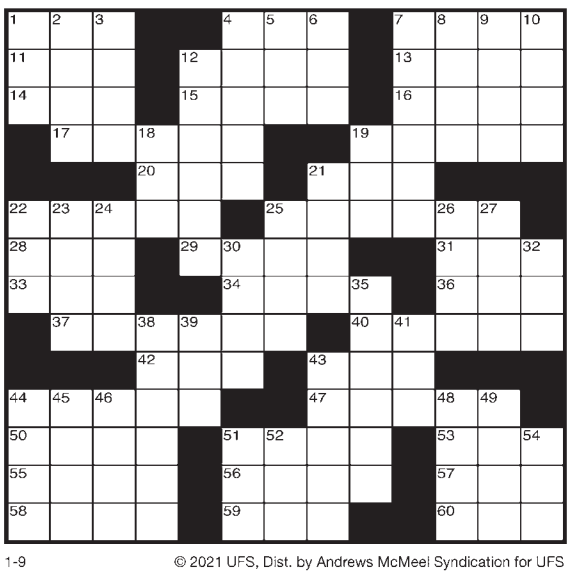
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Opposite of max
4 Reporter's query
7 Jostles
11 Even one
12 "After All" singer
13 Iridescent mineral
14 Make do with
15 Sound piggish
16 Bigfoot's kin
17 Skewers
19 Fought in the ring
20 Tenn. neighbor
21 Singer Rawls
22 — yoga
25 Flotsam and —
28 Sweet drink
29 Phony coin
31 You bet!
33 Tumbler's pad
34 Sacred image
36 French water
37 Soft wool
40 Walkway
42 Invoice no.
43 Pitches
44 Get a grip on
47 Please, in Vienna
50 Say "yeth"
51 Poet's black
53 Help
55 Fat cat's friend
56 Toy brand Melissa & —
57 Firearms lobby
58 Tiny sphere
59 Top NCO
60 Ruby

DOWN
1 Ginnie or Fannie
2 Readies the press
3 Russian veto word
4 Recipe word
5 Cackler
6 Sitcom planet
7 Happy
8 Triangle tip
9 Evaluate
10 Performed a glissade
12 Hooded snakes
18 Contented murmur
19 Plant sci.
21 Kids' block
22 Rye partner
23 Eliot's "— Bede"
24 Chapeau's place
25 Karate kin
26 Pro votes
27 Ground corn
30 Bits of fiber
32 Seek damages
35 Bill of — (shipping document)
38 Sounded hoarse
39 Bratty kid
41 Hobby ender
43 Concerning
44 Mashed potato serving
45 Saddle up
46 Largest continent
48 Tartness
49 Colleen's home
51 Magazine VIPs
52 Wet, spongy area
54 Hydro project

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	I	M	■	V	I	C	■	■	M	A	D	E
E	G	O	■	I	N	I	T	■	T	R	E	E
B	O	P	■	V	E	N	I	■	N	I	C	K
■	R	E	T	I	R	E	D	■	■	S	O	S
■	■	■	D	D	T	■	A	B	B	E	Y	■
G	U	M	S	■	I	G	L	O	O	■	■	■
E	T	E	■	H	A	L	■	C	Y	C	L	E
E	A	G	L	E	■	E	P	A	■	U	P	C
■	■	■	A	M	A	N	A	■	L	E	N	O
■	■	B	O	O	S	T	■	P	E	A	■	■
J	A	G	■	■	A	P	R	I	C	O	T	■
U	R	D	U	■	L	O	I	D	■	D	I	S
T	E	E	M	■	L	U	K	E	■	E	L	K
E	D	N	A	■	■	F	A	R	■	S	T	Y



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JUMBLE

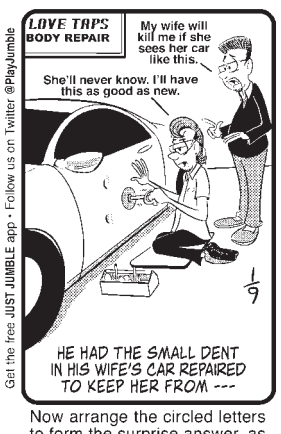
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ODYIL

DUFIL

RHYOTN

GANDOR


LOVE TAPS BODY REPAIR
My wife will kill me if she sees her car like this.
She'll never know. I'll have this as good as new.
HE HAD THE SMALL DENT IN HIS WIFE'S CAR REPAIRED TO KEEP HER FROM ---
1/9

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"◯◯◯◯-◯◯◯◯" ◯◯◯◯

(Answers Monday)

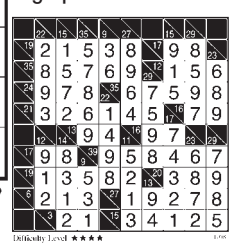
Yesterday's Jumbles: SCOUT INEPT ENSIGN REGRET
Answer: When they looked at the available lots in the new development, they were — "SITE-SEEING"

KAKURO

■	22	12	19	8	■	34	7	14	18
30					28				
10					10				
6				15	8				
38				38			3		
■	10	9			17		33	16	21
4		27			4				
19			23						
22			6			24			
13					29	13			
					10				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/09

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

William Blake, an English poet, painter and engraver, wrote, "When I tell any truth, it is not for the sake of convincing those who do not know it, but for the sake of defending those who do."

I hope this deal correctly describes the defense by East and West against five clubs. What did they do?

The auction contained a few debatable choices. West opened one heart because, not unreasonably, he thought his hand was too good for a four-heart opening. (If he had opened four, and the opponents had entered the auction, he would have doubled to tell his partner that he thought he could win 10 tricks and was not making an out-and-out pre-empt.) East responded with a weak jump shift, dangerously leaping with no known fit. South, holding 16 points, overcalled three clubs despite only a five-card suit. West, warned by his partner's response, settled for three hearts. North clearly took his partner's bid very seriously (and might have bid three no-trump, which could have been made). He cue-bid and still went to game when partner signed off.

West led the spade ace, and East signaled with his queen as a suit-preference signal for hearts. Getting the message, West shifted to the heart king. East ruffed away dummy's ace and gave his partner a spade ruff. West cashed the heart queen and continued with the heart two so that partner would ruff dummy's jack. The defenders still had a diamond trick to come for down three and 100 percent of the matchpoints.

North 01-09-21
♠ 8 6
♥ A J 6
♦ J 9 5 3
♣ Q 9 4 3

West
♠ A
♥ K Q 9 8 7 5 3 2
♦ K 10 7
♣ 8

East
♠ Q 10 7 5 4 2
♥ —
♦ Q 8 6 4
♣ 10 6 5

South
♠ K J 9 3
♥ 10 4
♦ A 2
♣ A K J 7 2

Dealer: West
Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
	1♥	Pass	2♠
3♣	3♥	3♠	Pass
4♣	Pass	5♣	All Pass

Opening lead: ♠ A

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

	6				9			
				2			1	
9			7	8		6		
	9			3	4			1
5		1		7		3		8
8			1	5			7	
		7		9	8			4
	3			1				
			4				9	

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	8	9	1	6	4	3	2	7
1	4	2	9	7	3	6	8	5
6	3	7	5	2	8	9	4	1
9	5	4	8	1	2	7	6	3
8	1	3	6	4	7	2	5	9
7	2	6	3	5	9	8	1	4
4	7	1	2	9	6	5	3	8
3	6	5	7	8	1	4	9	2
2	9	8	4	3	5	1	7	6

hp HOME & GARDEN

Simple, inexpensive home improvements

By MICHAELLE BOND
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — Jocelyn and Pete Lockard are planning major renovations after they close on their home in Phoenixville, Pa., in January. They'll redo the kitchen and renovate the main bathroom while they sell their Philadelphia home.

Overall, Jocelyn said, they're looking to make their new living space "really open and welcoming and cozy and conducive to our lifestyle" for the couple and their toddler, while making sure the home appeals to potential buyers if the family decides to sell in a decade or so. But one of the elements that excites her the most is relatively simple: the soaking tub she envisions as her retreat.

Major renovations aren't the only way homeowners can make a space their own and create an escape while stuck at home because of the pandemic. Smaller changes can make a big difference.

Dreamstime / TNS

Repainting cabinets can update a kitchen without remodeling it.

Paint and use wallpaper strategically

"You want to make sure your space is very relaxing," said Glynis Tart, owner of Verden Interior Design Studio, based in Philadelphia.

Paint can go a long way in achieving that. She suggests cool colors, including certain blues, greens and neutrals. She suggests neutral colors if a homeowner plans to sell in a few years and colors that most reflect the occupants if a sale is further off.

Repainting cabinets can update a kitchen without remodeling it. Painting railings and wall trim can also freshen a space.

Wallpaper "is really having a moment now," said Amy Cuker, owner and design director at Down2earth Interior Design in Montgomery County, Pa. Convenient peel-and-stick options make it easier to install and switch out. "That's a really high-impact way to get some punch and pattern in a space."

In redesigning a client's basement, Cuker installed wallpaper that was a mural but looked like a bookshelf.

Maximize space

"We see people taking every little bit of space and maximizing it right now," Philadelphia Realtor Maria Quattrone said.

Homeowners are making spaces multi-functional. If no extra rooms are available, some are carving out space for home gyms and offices in corners and using furniture, paint and artwork to create separation. Some are using garages as temporary gyms. Others with yards are buying sheds to use as multipurpose spaces.

Cuker said many clients are asking for areas dedicated to their children for online schooling and play, including redesigned breakfast nooks and repurposed basements.

"A lot of people are trying to reclaim their basement space and make it more livable and useful," she said.

Liz Walton, owner and principal designer of Liz Walton Homes in Phoenixville and a member of the National Kitchen and Bath Association, said kitchen islands are getting larger as homeowners seek a place that can accommodate eating, entertaining, schoolwork, parents' work, dog bowls and appliances.

Accessorize

Adding a new area rug can be an easy, inexpensive way to tie a room together or add less permanent color. A simple wine rack can elevate a kitchen.

Homeowners can add electric or gas fireplaces or fireplace inserts into wood-burning fireplaces they don't use. Many households have more time to sit by the fire, and they can make spaces cozier.

Homeowners can install a wood beam or finished mantel to an electric fireplace to make it look like a permanent part of the home, said Monica Miraglilo, a designer and co-founder of Philadelphia-based Miraglilo Properties.

Appliances are a great way to update without having to remodel an entire kitchen, Walton said. Replacing back splashes "goes a long way in changing the overall aesthetic of your space," she said.

Miraglilo said she uses subway tiles for back splashes, which look nice but can be inexpensive.

Homeowners are upgrading kitchen and bathroom fixtures and cabinet hardware. They're installing soft-close drawers to prevent the constant slamming that can grate on the nerves of family members who are constantly at home. Homeowners can paint, replace, or install doors to update a space.

Homeowners with a few thousand dollars to spend can replace countertops that have busy patterns with calmer versions that are lighter and brighter.

Clients "don't want to look at busy things because there's too much going on in our heads," Walton said. "I just did this for a client and it totally transformed their space."

Homeowners also are looking to technology to add convenience, Quattrone said. For example, to accommodate smart devices and family members working from home, homeowners can install outlets with USB ports. Smart thermostats can allow residents to control a home's temperature remotely.

Create a retreat

"Life is really complicated for a lot of people right now, and the home really needs to be a peaceful retreat," Walton said.

Bathrooms are becoming more spa-like, she said. Showers are getting bigger and more luxurious. Homeowners are adding heated flooring, which can get expensive, but small heaters and heating mats also can warm a cold bathroom.

Designers advised replacing any furniture once considered "good enough" with better-quality chairs and couches for comfort and aesthetics.

People are filling their living spaces with plants as a form of stress relief and to freshen up their homes. To nourish those hoards of new houseplants and to improve their moods, homeowners are looking to add as much natural light as possible.

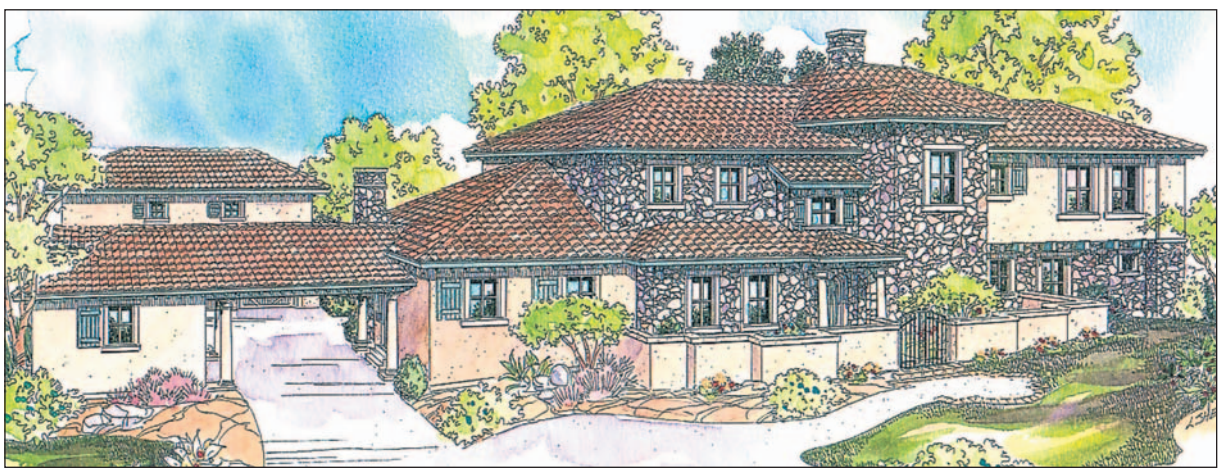
"People are even sacrificing wall cabinets to add windows," Walton said.

Cuker has been updating her sunroom during the pandemic. She reupholstered bench cushions, laid down a new rug, repainted furniture she got from family or that had been destined for the landfill, and installed art she bought from Etsy.

She used pinks, teals and yellows – bright colors to lift the mood of the room. She created a vacation-like space by basing her designs off of family trips to Cancun, "a place that made everyone happy" as a way to cheer up her family.

"I figured since we can't vacation anywhere, let's bring a little vacation to our house," Cuker said.

HOUSE OF THE WEEK



The Rossano

A finely detailed wrought iron gate opens into the garden courtyard that fronts this estate home with a Spanish flavor. Stone veneer, ceramic tile roofing, Tuscan columns, and wood shutters are a few of its exterior features.

Stepping through the arched entry door brings you into a two-story foyer that leads directly into a spacious great room with a cast stone fireplace. Cabinetry flanking the fireplace is designed for a home entertainment center. Double doors at the rear open onto a covered patio, bounded by a row of Tuscan columns.

The great room and dining room link to the kitchen via arched openings. The dining room has its own built-in hutch. Notable kitchen amenities include: granite countertops on the two islands, a cooking counter with prep sink and stainless steel countertop, a huge pantry, built-in bookcases and a high-ceilinged nook.

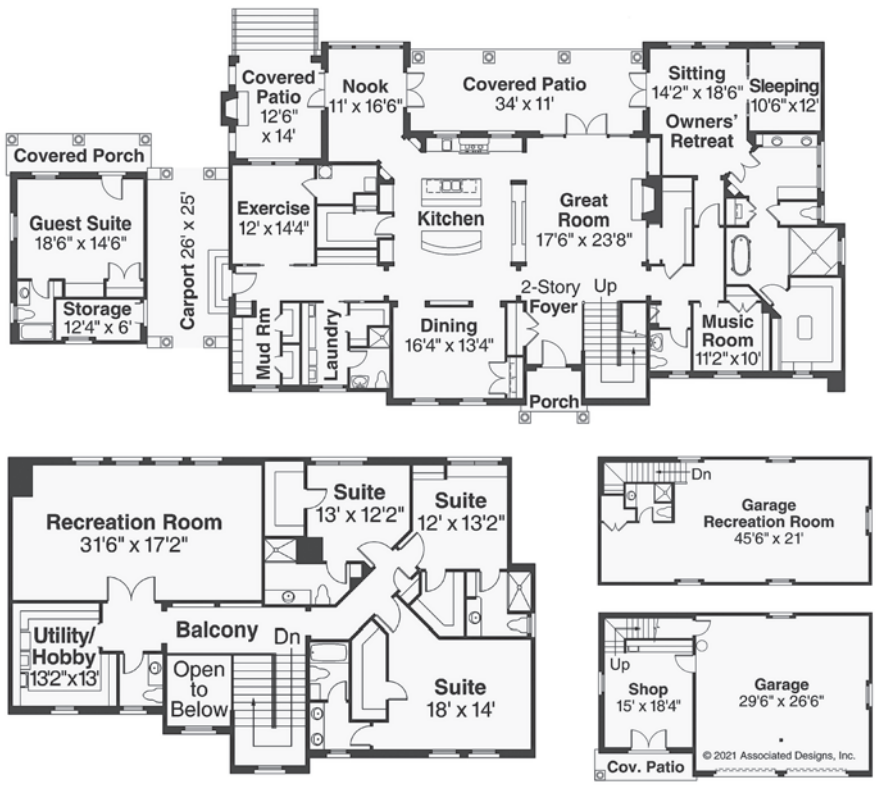
Opposing double doors in the nook open onto covered patios on both sides. The patio on the left has a wood-burning fireplace. Other rooms to the left of the kitchen include: an exercise room, storage, mud room and a laundry room with a walk-in closet and mud bath.

The owners' retreat has a sitting room that can be closed off from the sleeping area.

Notable luxuries in the private bathroom include: a claw foot tub, dual vanity and an extra large shower with two showerheads.

Three more bedrooms, each with a bathroom, are upstairs. A balcony links them to a large rec room, a utility/hobby room and a powder room.

For more information, or to view other designs, visit www.associateddesigns.com or call 800-634-0123.



House: Rossano 30-569
First floor: 3,819 square feet
Second floor: 2,136 square feet
Guest suite: 500 square feet
Living area: 6,455 square feet
Garage rec room: 950 square feet
Garage/shop: 1,238 square feet
Dimensions: 136-feet by 55-feet
Garage dimensions: 46-feet-6-inches by 28-feet

Turning seeds into trees

By LEE REICH
Associated Press

How exciting is it to think of a full-size tree locked up within each seed still clinging to the branches of sugar maples, hornbeams, oaks, sycamores and other trees at the end of summer.

It was with such visions that I dropped an apple seed into some potting soil in an 8-inch clay flowerpot one autumn day years ago.

I wish I could write that the seed has now been transformed into a majestic tree. But no, the seed germinated, started to grow, then stalled at about 4 inches high.

The reason for the lack of growth was that apple seeds, like the seeds of many other trees native to cold climates, need pre-treatment before they will germinate or grow well. I was lucky the seed germinated at all.

Since then, I've learned the tricks of growing trees from seeds.

If an apple or maple seed grew as soon as it touched ground in late summer or early fall, the life of the tender young seedlings would be short, snuffed out with the first frost. So most tree seeds that ripen in fall are able to stay dormant until they're convinced that winter is over.

You can fool such seeds into growing sooner by keeping them cool and moist for a couple of months. Pack the seeds into plastic bags with moist potting soil, then put the bag in the refrigerator or garage. This process is called "stratification" because nursery growers used to do it by alternating layers of seeds with layers of soil in boxes.

Of course, you could also just sow seeds directly outdoors and let them wait out the winter naturally, but then they face hazards like squirrels, birds, flooding and more.

It is cool, not cold, temperatures that awaken a seed from sleep. Hours of chilling accumulate only when it's between about 32 and 50 degrees. So chilling might begin in autumn but not finish until late winter or spring, thus reducing the likelihood of a seed sprouting during a February warm spell. Or all the chilling might take place in late winter or spring.

Some seeds have a hard coating which must be made permeable to water before the seed is stratified. One way to let water into redbud, juniper, hornbeam and other hard-coated seeds is to nick them with a small file.

Dank warmth will accomplish the same thing. Pack the seeds into plastic bags, as directed above, but leave them in a warm room for two or three months before stratification.

Sycamore and catalpa are among the few fall-ripening seeds that don't need stratification. Perhaps this is because they hang on the trees late enough into winter so that, by the time they drop to moist ground, temperatures are too cold for germination. Or else it is spring, and just the right time for germination.

Stratified seeds usually sprout as soon as they have accumulated the number of chilling hours they need. For sugar maple, that means three to four months; for dogwood, four months; for apple, two to three months.

Keep an eye on stratifying seeds, because one week they'll be asleep and a week later – bingo! – they're sprouting fat, white roots. Once seeds sprout, either pot them up or keep them cool enough to hold back growth until it's time to plant them outdoors.

You might wonder, why go to the trouble of planting these seemingly delicate seeds when you can just buy a sturdy young tree at a nursery?

Simple: You're a gardener; you like to grow plants.

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STATE OF MICHIGAN PROBATE COURT COUNTY OF BERRIEN

FILE NO. 2020-0860-DE-D

NOTICE TO CREDITORS Decedent's Estate

Estate of Cynthia R. Weiss, Deceased

Date of Birth: July 6, 1957

TO ALL CREDITORS:*

NOTICE TO CREDITORS: The decedent, Cynthia R. Weiss, died November 2, 2020.

Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to Dawn Lingbeek, personal representative, or to both the probate court at 811 Port Street, 4th Floor, St. Joseph, MI 49085, and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.

Date: January 6, 2021

Willis Law

Attorney:
Mariko C. Willis P81915
491 W. South Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007
269-492-1040

Personal Representative:
Dawn Lingbeek
677 Glenview Circle
Plainwell, MI 49080
269-364-5821

ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROPOSALS CITY OF ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC WORKS HEAVY DUTY TRAILER

Proposals will be received until 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021. Proposals will be publicly opened and read at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at St. Joseph City Hall, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, Michigan 49085.

It is the intent of the City to purchase one, new current model Heavy Duty Trailer (44,920 lb GVWR). The complete Request for Proposals (RFP) can be downloaded from the City of St. Joseph website (www.sjcity.com) or can be picked up at the City Clerk's Office.

The City of St. Joseph reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informalities in bidding and/or to accept the bid or bids should it consider same to be in its best interest.

Denise Westfall
St. Joseph City Clerk

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HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9

If you stay focused on what's important to you, the results will be above and beyond your expectations. Choose your battles wisely and evaluate your goals based on what's best for you. A physical change will boost your confidence. Romance is featured.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't get involved in others' business. Forge ahead with your plans, regardless of any interference. Don't waste valuable time; do your best to get ahead.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Get the lowdown before you make a decision that could influence your financial status. The research you do will give you the peace of mind required to ease stress and move forward with confidence.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Discuss troubling matters. Dealing with people you've known for a long time will be taxing. An enthusiastic, fair approach is necessary.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Invest in something that will make your life easier and your relationships with the people you care about better. A change will lead to personal growth and a healthier lifestyle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Self-improvement projects will help eliminate uncertainty and bring you peace of mind. Sharing feelings with a loved one will help you understand all sides of a situation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't second-guess yourself because someone doesn't think or do things your way. Believe in your ability to get things done and make your life better.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make a positive move. Be innovative and willing to work with the people or circumstances you encounter. Romance is encouraged. Be careful with your money.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Don't let inevitable changes get you down. Consider what you have and what you are capable of doing, and you will discover a new opportunity that will help you advance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Personal and physical changes will improve your day. Taking better care of your health and well-being will bring about personal stability. Love and romance are on the rise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Discipline and hard work will help you overcome any adversity you encounter at home or with a friend or relative. Speak up, but don't start a feud. Honesty and tact will be required.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Refuse to let confusion take the reins. When in doubt, make your position clear to anyone trying to pressure you into something questionable. Be innovative regarding a necessary change.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Keep your money in a safe place, avoid joint ventures and verify information you receive before you take action or pass it along. Concentrate on what's important to you.

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

Take good care of your financial well-being. Refuse to let anyone handle your affairs for you. Past acquaintances will surface and try to lead you astray. Make a healthy lifestyle your goal. Personal change will encourage you to be and do your best. Romance is in the stars.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Don't share your intentions anyone. Change is heading your way, and preparing for success will give you the edge you need to reach your destination.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Think before you act. Don't jeopardize your position, status or reputation. Think for yourself to avoid sticky situations. Focus on health and fitness, not on anger.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Mixed emotions can lead to poor judgment and regret. Listen to what others have to say, but don't be gullible. Consider what's in your best interest before you commit to something.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You can create an opportunity within the framework of something you are already doing. Expand your mind and use the experience you gain to advance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Be careful what you say and do. Consider the consequences of making a snap decision. You are better off doing your own thing and avoiding joint ventures.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Expand your mind. Search for opportunities that will allow you to use your skills, knowledge and experience. Look at the fine print, go over details, make adjustments and proceed with confidence.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Make personal progress, health and fitness priorities. Refuse to let emotional situations ruin your day. Look for opportunities that will encourage positive adjustments to your living space.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Avoid interacting with people who don't share your beliefs or opinions. You're better off avoiding a futile argument. Concentrate on saving money. Invest time and energy in something that offers excellent financial stability.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Keep an open mind, but don't trust someone to tell you the whole truth. Put more thought into making lifestyle adjustments that encourage fitness and good health. Romance is on the rise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Make changes at home conducive to the lifestyle you want to live. Move things around, clear a space for a project you wish to pursue or make plans to spend time with someone who brings out the best in you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Choose your words wisely. An unexpected change will leave you in a precarious position. Look for the positive in all things. Charm and diplomacy will help you get your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Personal and physical improvements are favored. Make an effort to get in shape, improve your diet and look your best. The compliments and attention you get will boost your ego.

CROSSWORD

Crossword Answers D4

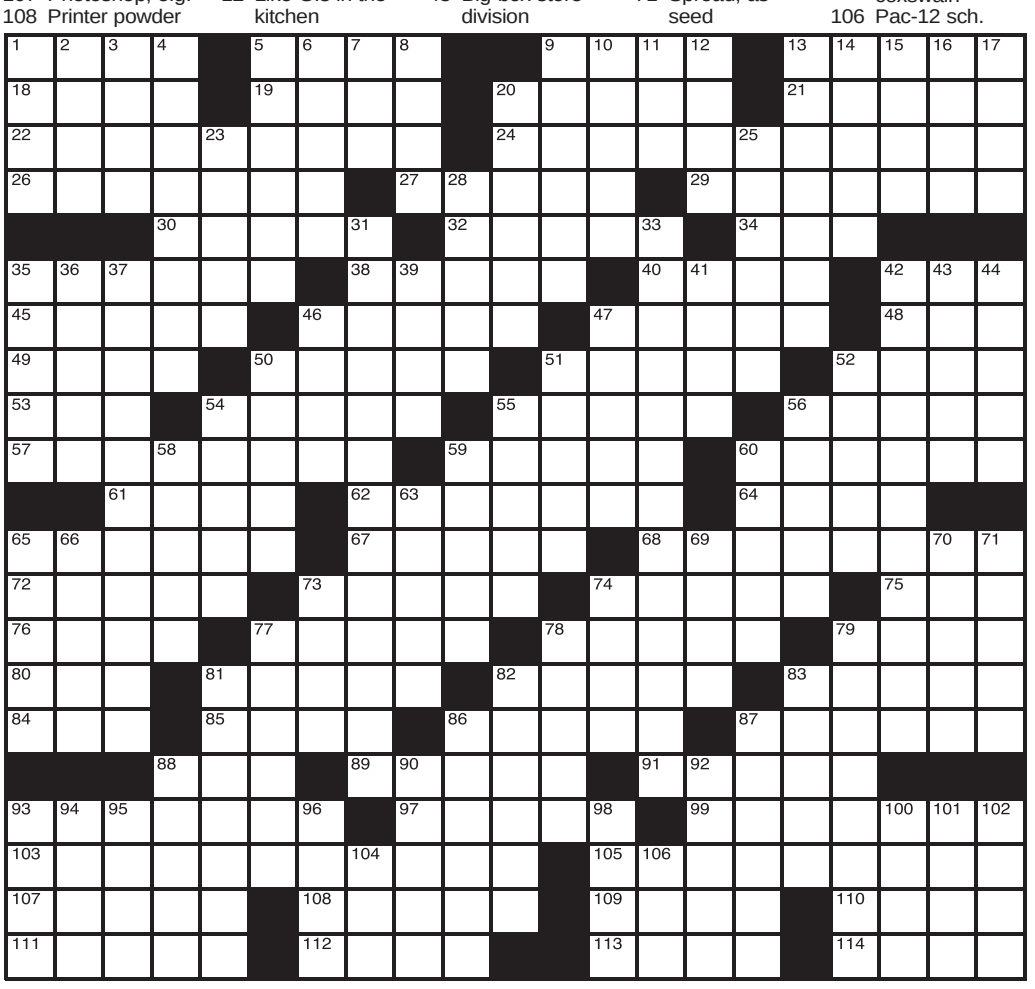
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"GIMME A HAND!"*
By FRED PISCOP

ACROSS
1 Fighting, after "at"
5 Fabled loser
9 Battle of heavyweights
13 Nail alternative
18 Turkish currency
19 Not quite round
20 Luxury sheet material
21 Slopping the hogs, e.g.
22 *Smell awful
24 *Do a garage job
26 Shove off
27 Like loud crowds
29 Applied fragrant hair dressing to
30 Tire pattern
32 Golden
34 Hanoi holiday
35 Social function
38 "Cast of thousands" member
40 Davis Cup org.
42 Many Eng. degrees
45 Othello and kin
46 Titled women
47 Last checkbox, often
48 Set aflame
49 Misfortunes
50 Tom and buck
51 SAT prep teacher, often
52 Firecracker part
53 "Toy Story" bully
54 Evaded the bouncer, maybe
55 Bat-maker's tool
56 Go through quickly
57 Reserve, as a date
59 Home with smoke flaps
60 Dancing pro
61 Suffix suggesting wealth
62 Ulna locale
64 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
65 Drew out
67 Many airport rides
68 E is the only vowel that doesn't begin any of their names
72 Napkin material
73 Unemotional
74 Destiny and source of the phoenix
75 Managed care gp.
76 Some eligible receivers
77 Informed, with "in"
78 Communion site
79 Frigate front
80 Tourist's rental
81 Nitpickers split them
82 Of great scope
83 Composed tweets, say
84 Give it a whirl
85 Cost to play
86 Brut, compared to sec
87 Ate, with "down"
88 Words with stew or pickle
89 Tender spots
91 Took a chance
93 Adorn with sequins
97 Toyed with, cat-style
99 Coming and going
103 *Walk off the job
105 *Cause a disturbance
107 Photoshop, e.g.
108 Printer powder
109 "Winning __ everything"
110 Austen classic
111 Stains on reputations
112 Knocks out, in a way
113 Flat-nosed dogs
114 Like some pockets

DOWN
1 Auto pioneer
2 Potentially ruinous
3 "Doggone it!"
4 Reacted to a punch
5 More saintly
6 St. Teresa's home
7 "Norma __"
8 Designer Schiaparelli
9 Roughly one-third of Africa
10 Where embryos develop
11 Emcee's lapel attachment
12 Like GIs in the kitchen
13 Cream cheese serving
14 Play badly?
15 Cross above an altar
16 Vowel-rich lake
17 Join with a blowtorch
20 Rubs clean
23 Anna of "The Emoji Movie"
25 Wobble
28 Hotels.com quotes
31 *Speculate, in a way
33 *Have what it takes
35 Horse-and-buggy group
36 Four-page sheet
37 *Do a washday chore
39 Magneto's enemies
41 Slipper, for one
42 *Try to deceive one of the base runners
43 Big-box store division
44 Rodeo bovine
46 Take out
47 __ Banks
50 Minibike relative
51 Cantina appetizers
52 Shrek's love
54 "The Elements of Bridge" author Charles
55 Having one's doubts
56 Turnips and parsnips
58 Prepares ham for an omelet, say
59 Gain popularity on Twitter
60 Car washer, at times
63 Bassoon cousins
65 Send to the Hill
66 Currency of Jordan
69 Migratory herring
70 Portray fury or fear
71 Spread, as seed
73 X-Acto knife cut
74 Skin cream additive
77 Venice features
78 Respond to reveille
79 Manufactured
81 Homes for gliders
82 Suds maker
83 Placement word
86 Ducklings' dads
87 Reaches a peak
88 Chesapeake Bay, e.g.
90 Offer a view
92 Winery process
93 Worker during a walkout
94 Dark cloud
95 Choral part
96 Kett of old comics
98 Faucet annoyance
100 Point a finger at
101 Coin depicting a torch
102 Totally lose it
104 Obey the coxswain
106 Pac-12 sch.



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1/10/21

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2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4

OXFORD WHITE WITH MAGNETIC TU-TONE, 2.7 ECOBOOST ENGINE, XLT CHROME APPEARANCE PACKAGE, POWER SLIDING REAR WINDOW, LED BOX LIGHTING, REMOTE START, NAVIGATION, LOCKING REAR AXLE, AND MUCH MORE! F20111

MSRP	$50,285
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,290
FORD SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD BONUS CASH	- 1,500
FORD F SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 3,250
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $40,495

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW STX 4X4

MAGNETIC, 2.7 ECOBOOST V6 ENGINE, 3.55 LOCKING REAR AXLE, PLATFORM RUNNING BOARDS, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, REVERSE SENSING SYSTEM, CHROME APPEARANCE PACKAGE, POWER EQUIPMENT GROUP, FORD PASS CONNECT, AND MUCH MORE! F20473

MSRP	$45,755
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,510
FORD SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 2,000
FORD BONUS CASH	- 1,500
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $37,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD ECOSPORT SE

RUBY RED METALLIC, POWER MOONROOF, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REAR VIEW CAMERA, REVERSE SENSING SYSTEM, AND MUCH MORE! F20250

MSRP	$25,090
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 695
FORD SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 500
FORD BONUS CUSTOMER CASH	- 500
FORD RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 4,000
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $18,395

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 4X4

RAPID RED METALLIC, TWIN PANEL MOON ROOF, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, 20 INCH HAND POLISHED ALUMINUM WHEELS, HANDS FREE LIFTGATE, HEATED SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, POWER-FOLD THIRD ROW SEATS, 360 DEGREE CAMERA, B & O 12 SPEAKER SOUND SYSTEM, REMOTE START, NAVIGATION, AND MUCH MORE! F20360

MSRP	$55,140
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,445
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
FORD RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 2,000

SALE PRICE* $49,695

PLUS 0% FOR 72 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT)

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2020 FORD ESCAPE SE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

MAGNETIC METALLIC, HEATED FRONT SEATS, BACK-UP CAMERA, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, VOICE ACTIVATED NAVIGATION, 1.5 ECOBOOST ENGINE, AND MUCH MORE! F20306

MSRP	$30,145
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,450
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 3,500
FORD NEW YEAR TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000
FORD CAR TO ESCAPE OWNER LOYALTY*	- 500

SALE PRICE* $22,695

PLUS 0% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT)

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2020 FORD F350 XLT DUALLY PICKUP

AGATE BLACK, 6.7 POWER STROKE DIESEL, 4.10 LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE, FOG LAMPS, REVERSE VEHICLE AID SENSOR, POWER SEAT, REAR DEFROSTER, 5TH WHEEL HITCH PREP PACKAGE, POWER SCOPE TRAILER TOW MIRRORS, 17 INCH FORGED ALUMINUM WHEELS, LED BOX LIGHTING, UPFITTER SWITCHES, REMOTE START, AND MUCH MORE! F20458

MSRP	$60,440
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,945
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 500

SALE PRICE* $57,995

2020 FORD TRANSIT 15 PASSENGER XLT WAGON

AGATE BLACK METALLIC, PRIVACY GLASS, LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE, WHEEL SIMULATORS ADDED, FORD CO-PILOT 360, REAR VIEW CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! F20297

MSRP	$49,610
ADD FOR WHEEL SIMULATORS	+ 888
SUBTOTAL	$50,498
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,503
FORD SELECT INVENTORY CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 250
FORD GM-FULL SIZE VAN COMPETITIVE CONQUEST	- 2,500
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $43,495

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED STEALTH 4X4

OXFORD WHITE, FORD CO-PILOT 360 ASSIST, VOICE ACTIVATED NAVIGATION, PANORAMIC VISTA ROOF, 360 DEGREE CAMERA, ENHANCE ACTIVE PARK ASSIST, 3.5 ECOBOOST V6 ENGINE, 22 INCH BLACK PAINTED ALUMINUM WHEELS, POWER RUNNING BOARDS, AND MUCH MORE! F20412

MSRP	$75,230
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,000
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,250
FORD COMPETITIVE TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 3,000

SALE PRICE* $67,980

PLUS 0% FOR 60 MONTHS (WITH APPROVED CREDIT)

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

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2020 RAM 5500 4X4 CHIPPER BODY

BRIGHT WHITE, 6.7 CUMMINS TURBO DIESEL, CHROME APPEARANCE GROUP, CHROME TUBULAR SIDE STEPS, VOTH CHIPPER BODY, AND MUCH MORE! C20221

MSRP	$58,305
ADD FOR VOTH CHIPPER BODY	+21,308
SUBTOTAL	$79,613
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,868
REBATE	- 500
RAM BONUS COUPON	- 250
ON THE JOB COMMERCIAL UPFIT*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$72,995
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $71,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2021 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4

JAZZ BLUE PEARL, POWER SEAT, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, HEATED FRONT SEATS, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C21003

MSRP	$30,330
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 835
REBATE	- 3,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 250
SALE PRICE FOR EVERONE	$24,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $23,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4 DEMO

DIAMOND BLACK CRYSTAL, 19 SPEAKERS WITH HIGH PERFORMANCE AUDIO, NAVIGATION, DUAL PANE SUNROOF, 20 INCH LOW GLOSS GRANITE WHEELS, NAPPA LEATHER, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEATED SEATS, AND MUCH MORE! C20096

MSRP	$54,925
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,180
REBATE	- 3,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$46,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $45,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS 4X4

DIAMOND BLACK CRYSTAL, REMOTE START, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEATED FRONT SEATS, TOUCH SCREEN, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20120

MSRP	$31,580
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,085
REBATE	- 2,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$25,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
2020 RETURNING LESSEE*	- 500

AS LOW AS $24,995

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE TRAILHAWK 4X4

BRIGHT WHITE, 3.2 V6 ENGINE, REMOTE START, HEATED FRONT SEATS, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, AND MUCH MORE! C20231

MSRP	$37,245
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,250
REBATE	- 2,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2020 BONUS CASH*	- 750
NATIONAL RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$31,495
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $30,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 RAM 1500 CREW CAB LARAMIE 4X4

HYDRO BLUE PEARL, LEATHER BUCKET SEATS, SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE, 5.7 HEMI V8 ENGINE, NAVIGATION, WHEEL TO WHEEL SIDE STEPS, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, 20 INCH WHEELS, SPORT PERFORMANCE HOOD, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, AND MUCH MORE! C20198

MSRP	$57,125
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 4,380
REBATE	- 1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 500
RAM BONUS CASH COUPONS	- 250
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 1,500
TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$48,495
CONQUEST LEASE CASH*	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $47,495

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4

BLACK CLEAR COAT, HEATED FRONT SEATS, TOUCH SCREEN, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20176

MSRP	$28,875
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 880
REBATE	- 3,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
NATIONAL BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$23,745
2020 RETURNING LESSEE *	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $22,745

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2021 RAM 1500 QUAD CAB 4X4

BILLET SILVER METALLIC, NIGHT EDITION, 5.7 HEMI V-8 ENGINE, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, BUCKET SEATS, HEATED FRONT SEATS, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, POWER ADJUSTABLE PEDALS, FRONT/REAR PARK ASSIST, 20 INCH BLACK PAINTED WHEELS, REMOTE START, AND MUCH MORE! C21105

MSRP	$48,770
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,275
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 500
REBATE	- 1,500
RAM COUPON	- 250
BONUS CASH	- 2,500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$41,745
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $40,745

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

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2012 HONDA CIVIC LX

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Styled Wheel Covers, 146K Miles, Power Windows, CD-Player, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Gray, U20140A

Was $8,806 NOW $6,961

2016 MERCEDES 4MATIC GLE350 AWD

3.5 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 71K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seating, Power Dual Panel Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Palladium Silver, F20388A

Was $27,964 NOW $26,213

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 28K Miles, Power Driver's Seat, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver, C20323A

NOW $25,930

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 25K Miles, Chrome Step Bars, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Trailer Tow Package, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Race Red, F20462A

NOW $38,995

2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 5 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 73K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, 3-Piece Hard Top, Heated Front Seats, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Black U20176

Was $31,749 NOW $27,136

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 37K Miles, Remote Start, Power Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver U20181

Was $31,228 NOW $28,880

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 33K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Reverse Park Assist with Stop, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Velvet Red, C20223A

Was $28,783 NOW $27,875

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 30K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Front and Rear View Cameras, Lane-Keeping System, Active Park Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Ford Certified! Shadow Black C20288A

Was $35,989 NOW $33,935

2013 FORD EDGE SE

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 91K Miles, SYNC, CD-Player, Power Windows and Doors, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Tuxedo Black, F21006A

Was $11,587 NOW $10,698

2015 INFINITI QX70 AWD

3.7 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 66K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Seating, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Back-Up Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Liquid Platinum, C21009A

Was $23,997 NOW $22,425

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 65K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Side Side Doors, DVD Entertainment System, Reverse Park Assist with Stop, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Granite, F20104A

Was $23,927 NOW $22,474

2019 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 10K Miles, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Dynamic Hitch Assist, Pre-Collision Assist, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red, F20399A

Was $39,995 NOW $36,814

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW DIESEL 4X4

3.0 V6 EFI Turbo Diesel Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 9K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Reverse Sensing System, Trailer Tow Package, Trailer Tow Monitor, Trailer Back Up Assist, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red C20246A

Was $54,990 NOW $50,526

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING-L PLUS

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 51K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Side Side Doors, Power Lift Gate, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Reverse Park Assist, Rear View Camera, DVD Entertainment Center, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Tusk White, C20212A

Was $26,811 NOW $22,225

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, U20210

Was $33,987 NOW $32,707

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 31K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, Heated Steering Wheel, 2 nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, 360 Degree Camera, Pre-Collision Assist, Blind Spot Monitor with Trailer Towing Monitor, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, C21013A

Was $47,373 NOW $46,658

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LIMITED AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Chrome Wheels, 30K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Cross Traffic Alert, Blind Spot Monitor, Lane Keeping Assist, Rear Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Pre-Dawn Gray Mica, C20303A

Was $34,312 NOW $32,795

2019 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 13K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Security Cover, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Pre-Collision Assist, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, U20143A

Was $40,498 NOW $38,449

2017 FORD FOCUS SEL HATCHBACK

2.0 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 58K Miles, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Kona Blue, M20086A

Was $13,995 NOW $12,995

2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 55K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Dual Panel Panoramic Moon Roof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Group IV, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Brilliant Black, C20306A

Was $30,663 NOW $27,781

2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT 4X4

5.3 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Driver's Seat, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, U20206

Was $32,679 NOW $30,999

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20316A

Was $39,995 NOW $37,983

2015 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROAD

2.4 EFI Engine, 4 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 87K Miles, Power Driver's Seat, Leather Trimmed Seating, Three Zone Temp Control, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Vice White, F20334A

Was $13,904 NOW $11,889

2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Dual Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Forward and Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20219A

Was $31,973 NOW $30,584

2017 KIA SORENTO LX AWD

2.4 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 54K Miles, Cloth Leather Trimmed Seats, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Snow White Pearl, Car Smart Checked! F20446A

Was $18,980 NOW $17,910

2014 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SE

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 156K Miles, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! White

Was $9,822 NOW $7,546

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Remote Start, CD-Player, Power Driver's Seat, Power Slide Side Doors, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Powertrain Factory Warranty! White Knuckle S20013

Was $20,500 NOW $18,995

2018 BUICK REGAL SPORTBACK ESSENCE

2.0 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 28K Miles, Remote Start, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Quicksilver Metallic, C20202A

Was $20,989 NOW $20,424

2014 FORD TAURUS LIMITED

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Painted Aluminum Wheels, 56K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seating, Auto Climate Control, Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Sterling Gray, F20434A

NOW $13,561

2018 HONDA FIT EX HATCHBACK, GRAY

1.5 EFI Engine, CVT Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 44K Miles, Power Moon Roof, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, F20375A

Was $16,537 NOW $14,464

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 46K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Seating, Heated Steering Wheel, Stow 'N Go Seats, Auto Climate Control, Power Slide Side Doors, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Granite S20012

Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2020 MAZDA CX-30 SELECT AWD

2.5 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 2,000 Miles! Leather Seating, Back-Up Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Mazda Certified! Soul Red Crystal, S20017

NOW $23,500

2016 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Trailer Tow Group, Pro Trailer Back Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Blue Jeans, F20436A

Was $34,552 NOW $32,704

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross Traffic Alert, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! PreDawn Gray Mica, C20227A

Was $32,226 NOW $30,707

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Machined Face Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, 3rd Row Power-Fold Seats, Panoramic Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, 180 Degree Front Camera, Lane Keeping System, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, F20437A

Was $33,821 NOW $31,845

2018 MAZDA CX-3 GRAND TOURING AWD

2.0 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 41K Miles, Navigation, Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, CD-Player, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross-Traffic Alert, Back-Up Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Soul Red Metallic, C21036A

NOW $20,271

2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 65K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheels, Auto Climate Control, Twin Panel Moon Roof, Forward and Reverse Sensing System, Blind Spot Information System, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, C20076A

Was $27,999 NOW $24,929

2015 GMC YUKON DENALI 4X4

6.2 V8 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, 2nd Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Moon Roof, DVD Entertainment System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Black, C20305A

Was $40,827 NOW $38,745

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 36K Miles, Chrome Step Bars, Power Driver' Seat, Power Adjust Pedals, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20162A

Was $36,625 NOW $33,925

2018 FORD EDGE TITANIUM AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Panoramic Moon Roof, Adaptive Cruise Control, Collision Warning, Lane Keeping System, Front 180 Degree Camera, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Active Park Assist, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Blue Metallic, F20463A

Was $29,918 NOW $29,547

8961 Red Arrow Hwy
Bridgman, MI
269-465-5344 or 269-925-3673

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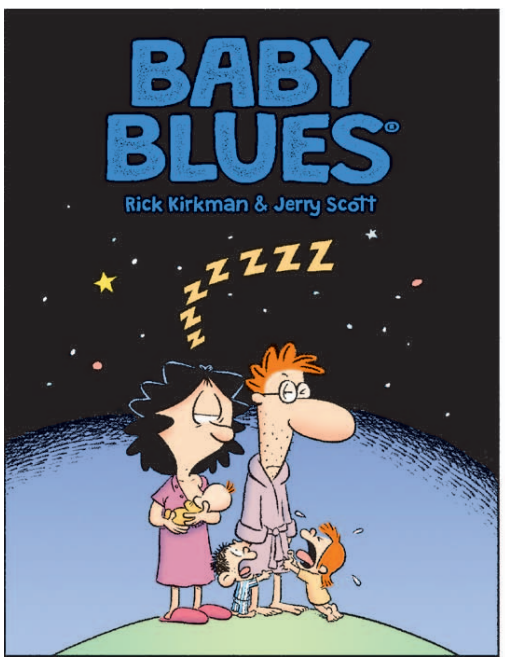
Tues, Wed, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-4

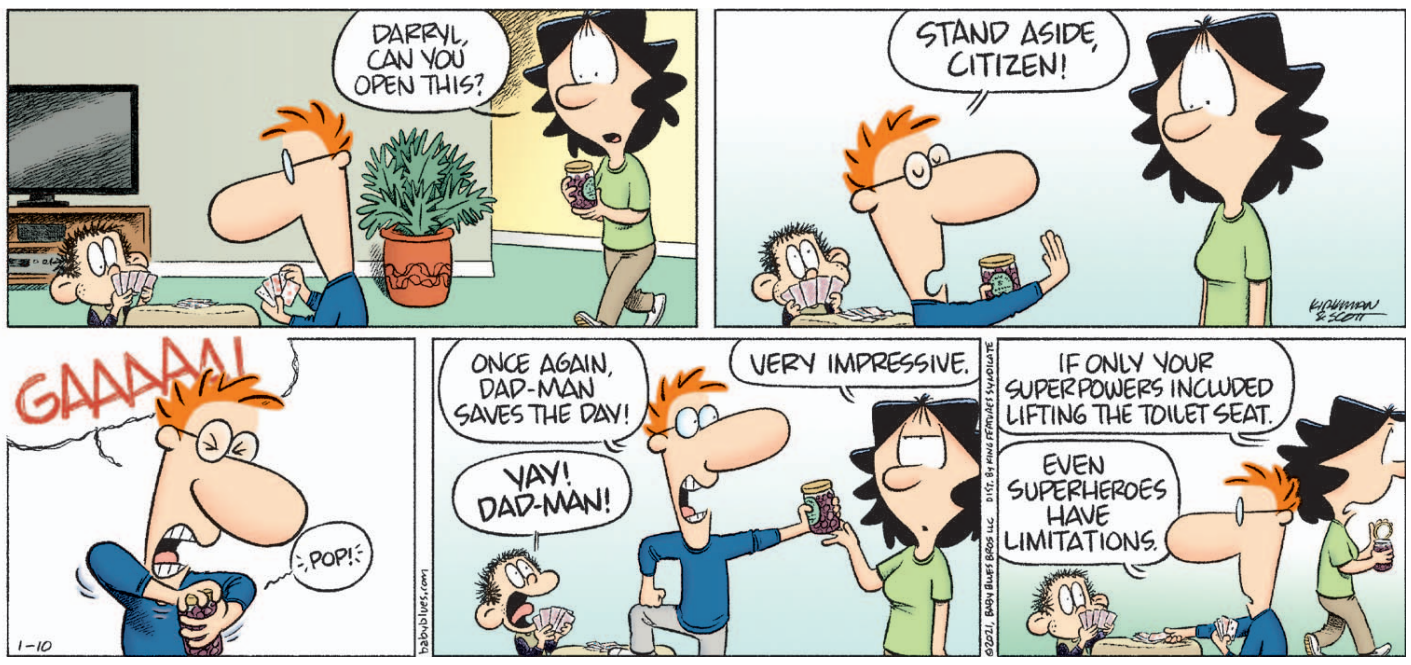
Weekend Comics

JAN. 9-10, 2021

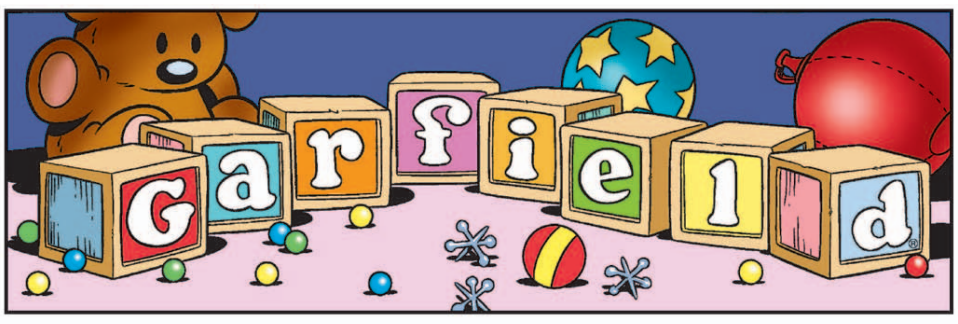
BABY BLUES

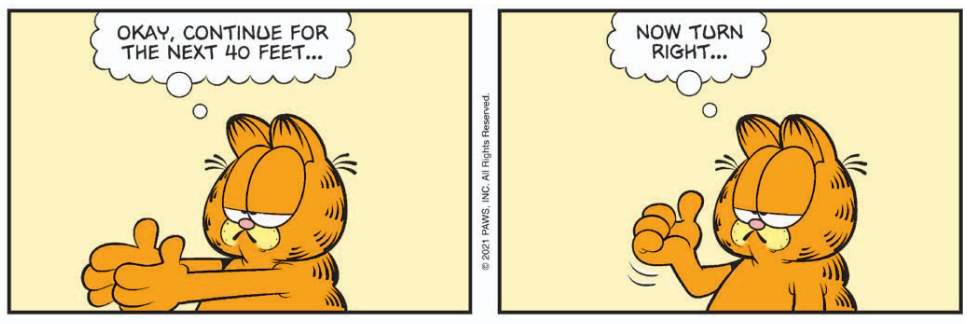
Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott





Garfield




OKAY, CONTINUE FOR THE NEXT 40 FEET...
NOW TURN RIGHT...
© 2021 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
MERGE LEFT UP AHEAD...
U-TURN! U-TURN! DOUBLE BACK!
THERE IT IS! YOU HAVE REACHED YOUR DESTINATION!!
JIM DAVIS 1-10
MY SUPERMARKET GPS
TWO-FOR-ONE LASAGNA NOODLES!
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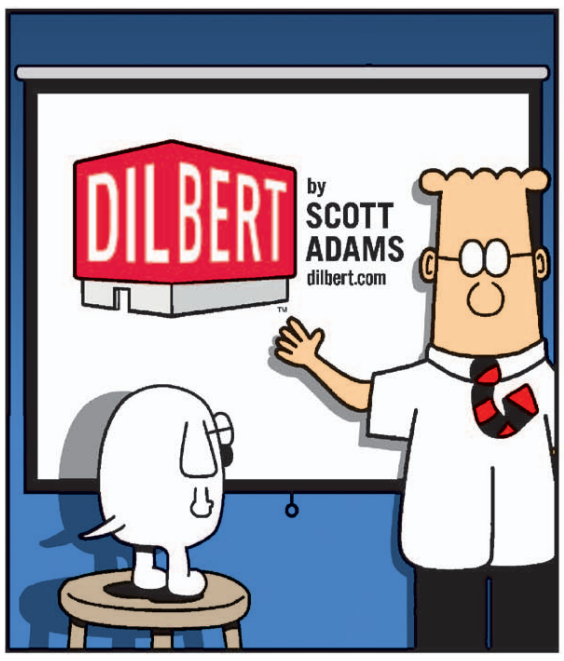
DILBERT

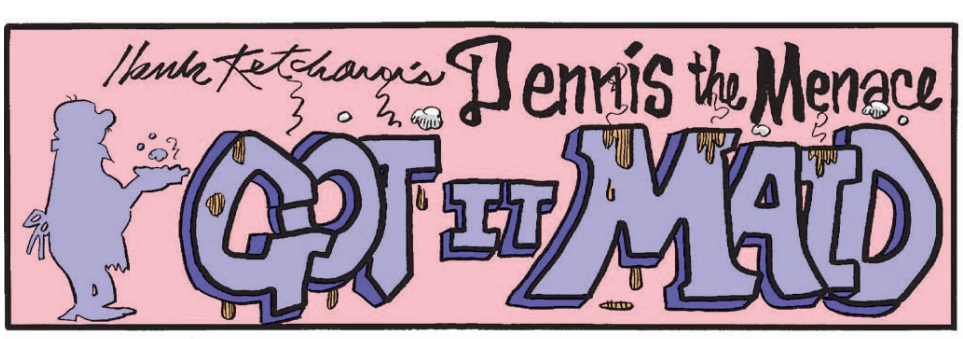
by SCOTT ADAMS

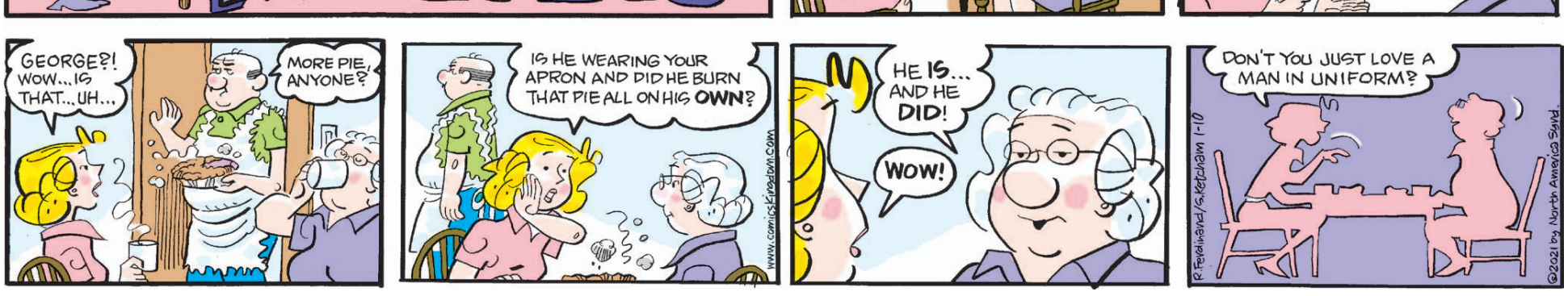
dilbert.com



I'M GOING TO TRY TO CANCEL SOME RECURRING ONLINE CHARGES TODAY. WISH ME LUCK.
Twitter: @scottadamssays
WHAT RESISTANCE ARE YOU EXPECTING?
OBVIOUSLY, THEY HIDE THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION, SO I ALLOCATED TWO HOURS TO FIND THE RIGHT PHONE NUMBER.
IT SHOULD TAKE ABOUT AN HOUR TO NAVIGATE THEIR AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM THAT WILL KEEP SENDING ME TO THE WRONG PLACE.
© 2021 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
IF I REACH A HUMAN, HE'LL TRY TO DIVERT ME TO THEIR WEBSITE TO CANCEL, WHICH I ALREADY KNOW WON'T WORK BECAUSE . . .
. . . I WON'T BE ABLE TO FIND MY ACCOUNT IN THEIR SYSTEM FOR REASONS NO ONE WILL EVER BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN.
AND, OF COURSE, THEIR PHONE SUPPORT PERSON WILL BE USING A HEADSET MICROPHONE THAT GARBLES HIS ALREADY-MUMBLED WORDS.
1-10-21
Dilbert.com
BUT IF YOU STICK WITH IT, YOU WILL EVENTUALLY SUCCEED?
I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THAT IDEA.

Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace GOT IT MAD


WE NEED TO DO THIS MORE OFTEN. IT'S SO REFRESHING TO JUST SIT DOWN AND UNWIND.
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY.
IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME ROUTINE EVERY DAY. I'M READY FOR A CHANGE.
I THOUGHT THE SAME THING...
..SO I CHANGED IT UP.


GEORGE?! WOW...IS THAT...UH...
MORE PIE, ANYONE?
IS HE WEARING YOUR APRON AND DID HE BURN THAT PIE ALL ON HIS OWN?
www.comicskingdom.com
HE IS... AND HE DID!
WOW!
DON'T YOU JUST LOVE A MAN IN UNIFORM?
R.Fierlein/S.Ketcham 1-10
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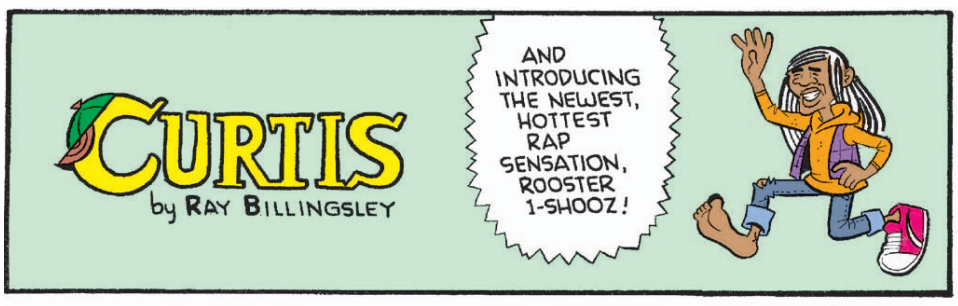
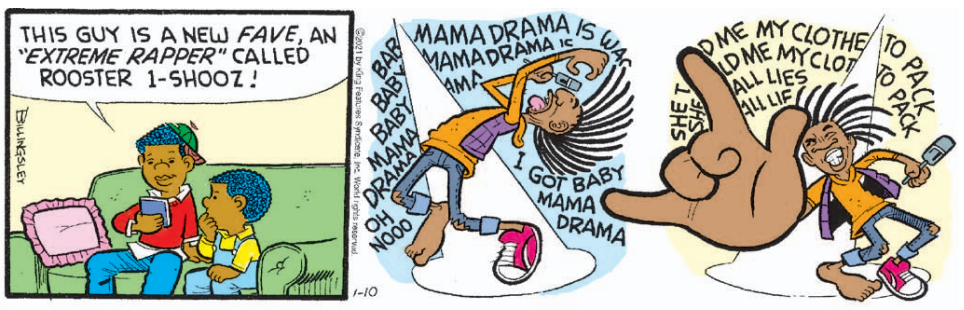
CURTIS

by RAY BILLINGSLEY




THIS GUY IS A NEW FAVE, AN "EXTREME RAPPER" CALLED ROOSTER 1-SHOOZ!
BILLINGSLEY
1-10
MAMA DRAMA IS WAC
I GOT BABY MAMA DRAMA
SHE TOLD ME MY CLOTHES TO PACK
BABY MAMA DRAMA IS WACK
I AIN'T GOT MUCH
JUST ONE SHOE
AIN'T RIGHT SHE TH
SISTER TOLD
ON ME BUT IT W
TRUE BABY M
MAMA DRAMA
WHY SHE WANNA :BLEEP: ME OVER? WHY SHE WAN:
:BLEEP: :BLEEP: :BLEEP:
AND THEN I SAID BLEEP
BLEEP BLEEP BLEEP
CLAP THUNDEROUS CLAPPING CLAP
MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY HE SUITS UP AND WORKS AS A WALL STREET FINANCIAL ANALYST NAMED JEROME FULLER

Mort Walker's beetle bailey®

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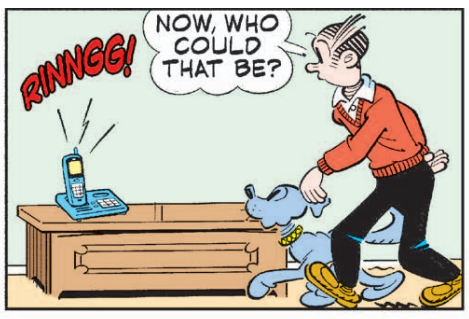
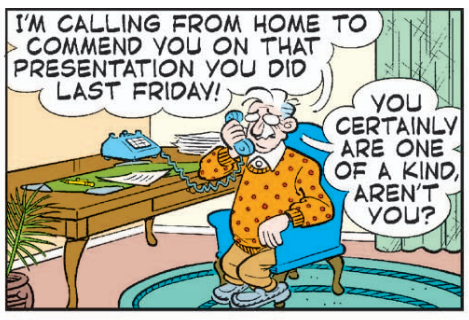
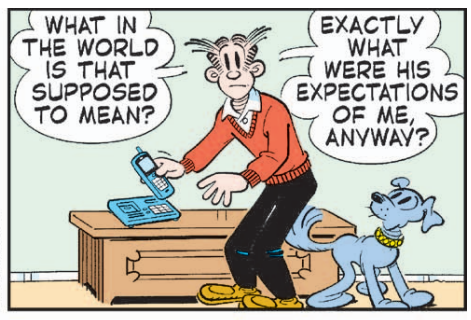
BLONDIE®

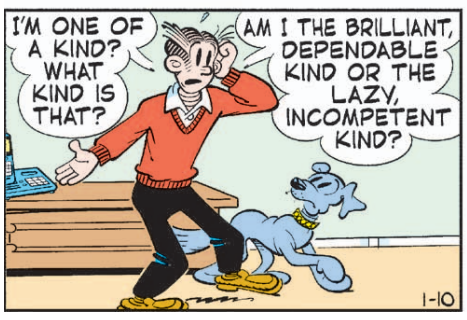
BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

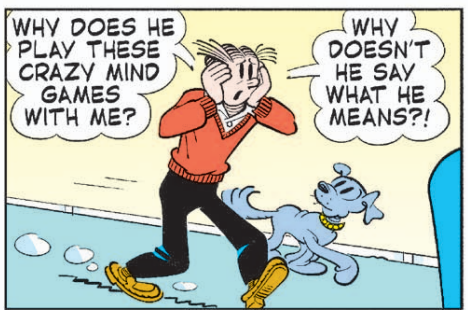


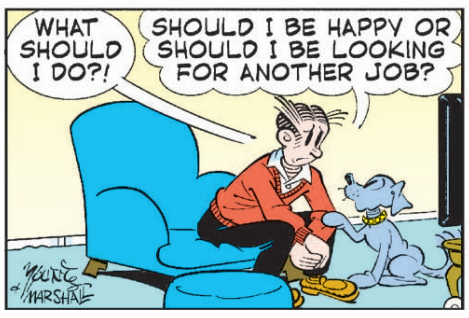




www.blondie.com







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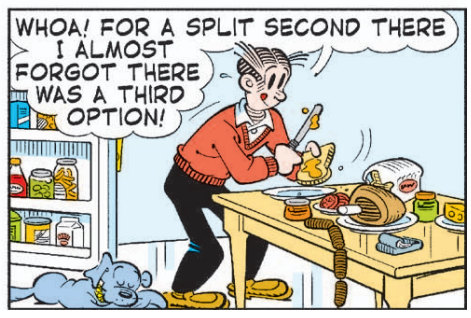


MUTTS

LOOK, EARL! MY MITTENS FROM WHEN I WAS A KITTEN! I THOUGHT I LOST THEM!
BUT THEN THIS LITTLE KITTEN FOUND HIS MITTENS.
YOU SILLY KITTEN.

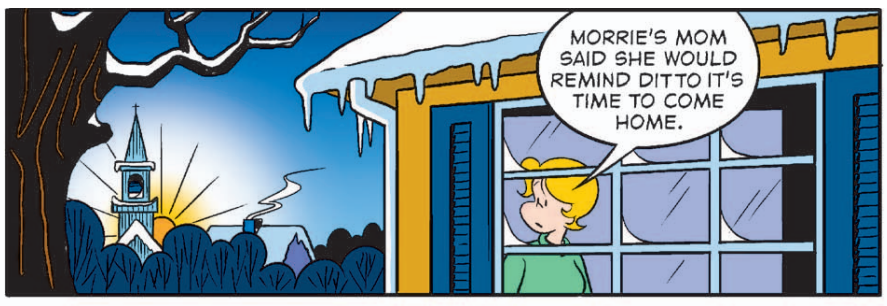
WHAT!
LOST YOUR MITTENS !?!
YOU NAUGHTY KITTEN.
AND I CRIED "OH, SHMILLIE DEAR, SEE HERE! SEE HERE! FOR I HAVE FOUND MY MITTENS!"
PURR PURR PURR

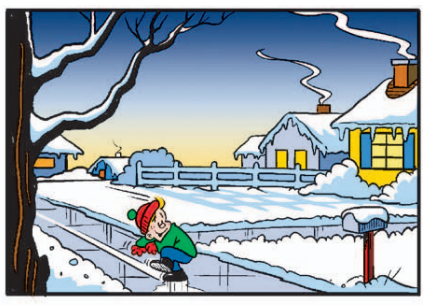
YESH
AND THEN I BEGAN TO CRY...
MEOW MEOW MEOW
AND EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN HANKERING FOR A PIECE OF PIE.
OH, LET US HAVE SOME PIE!
1-10

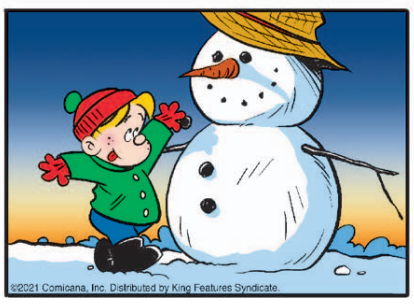
MUTTS © 2021 PATRICK MCDONNELL · DISTRIBUTED BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE

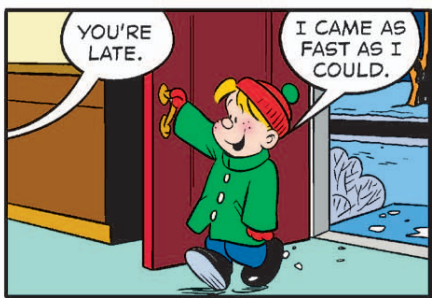
Hi and Lois

by BRIAN and GREG WALKER



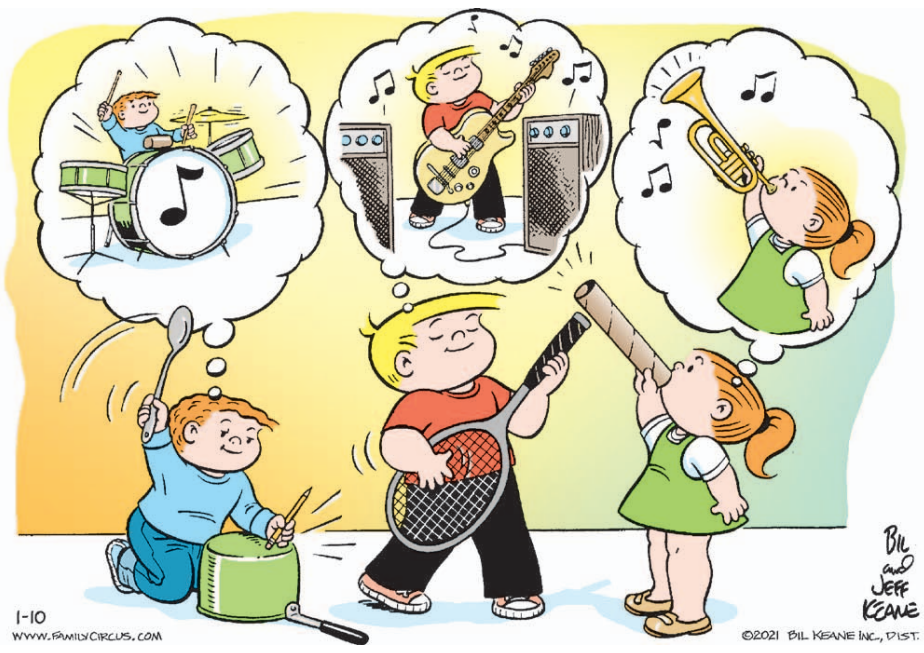






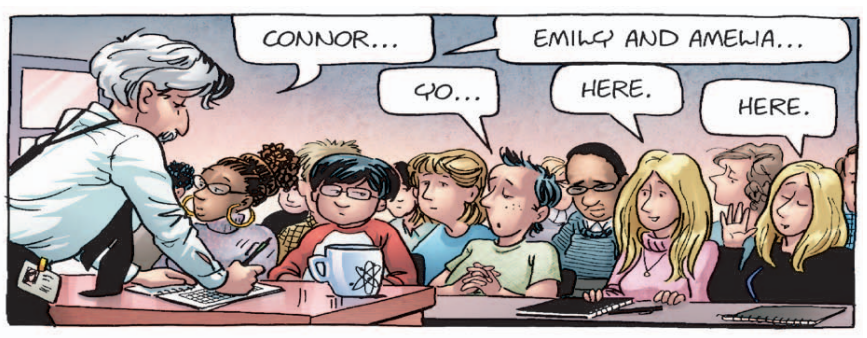
The FAMILY CIRCUS®

By BIL KEANE



FUNKY WINKERBEAN®

by TOM BATIUK



funkywinkerbean.com/tbcooks

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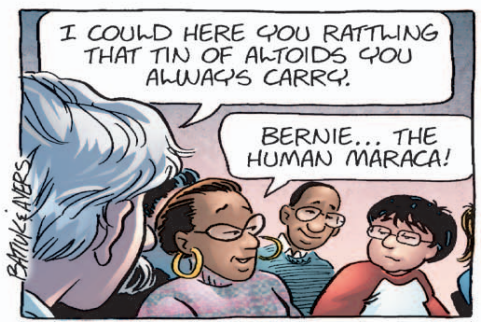
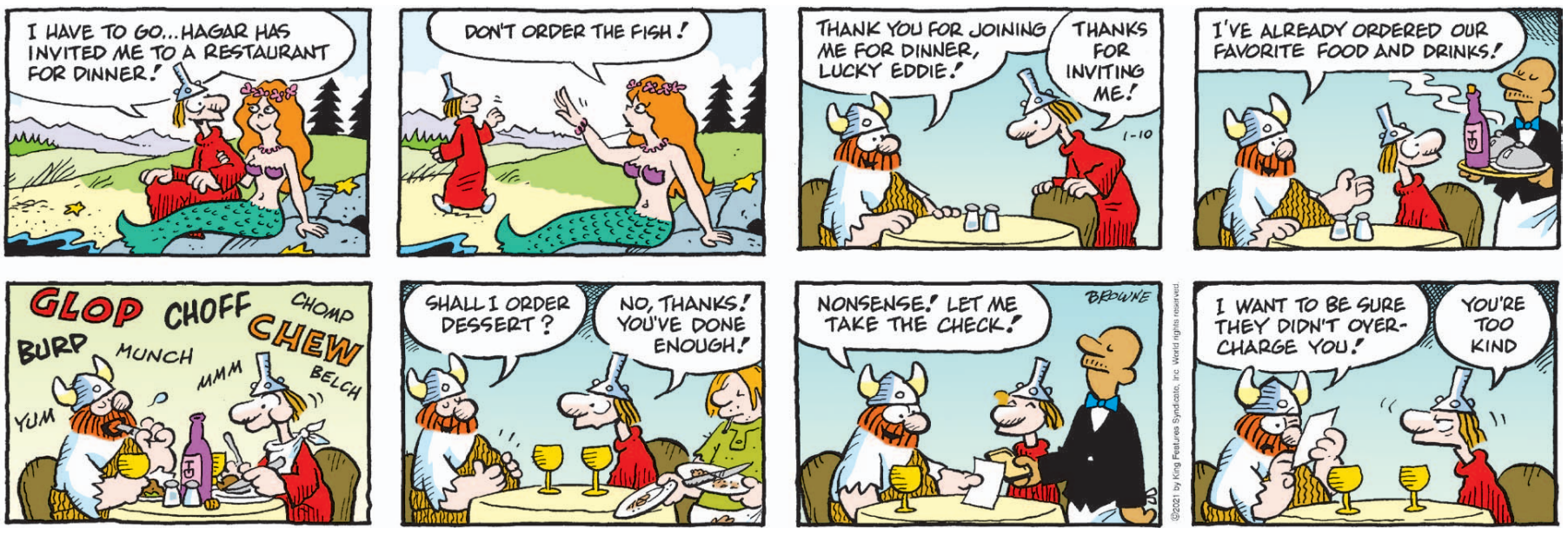


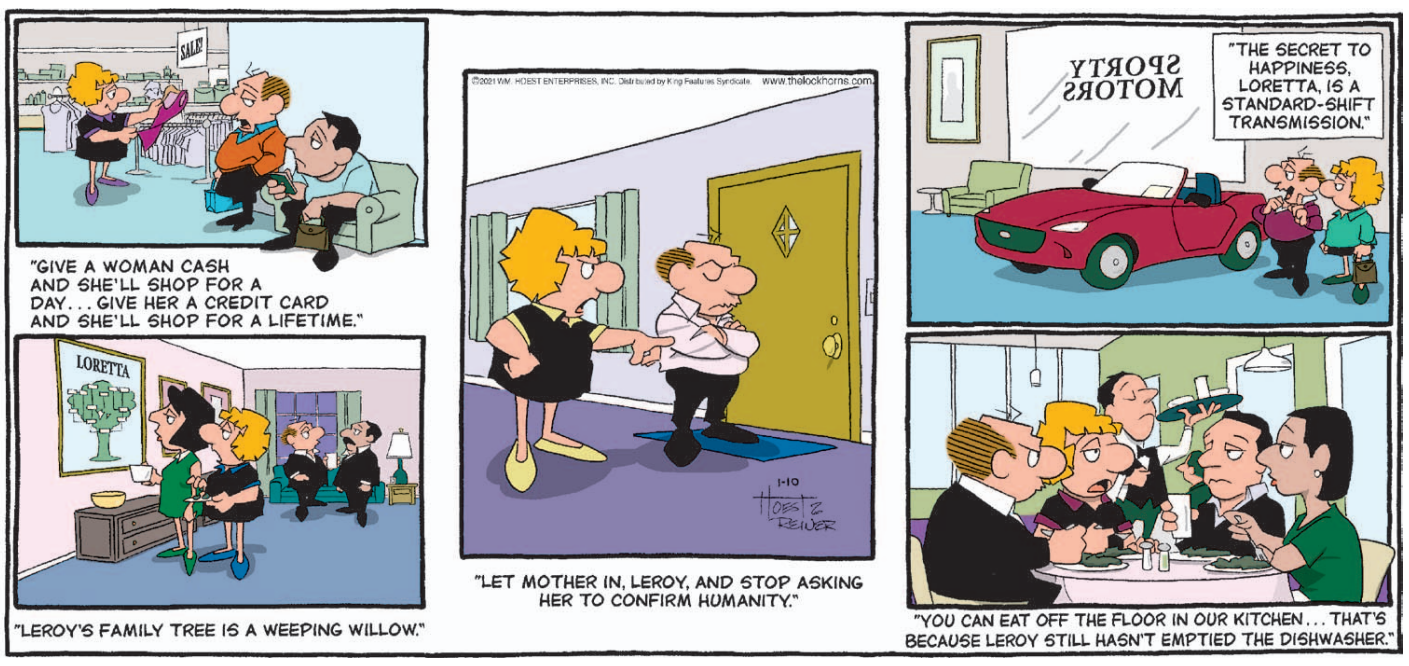
HAGAR the horrible

by DIK BROWNE



THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER


SALE!
"GIVE A WOMAN CASH AND SHE'LL SHOP FOR A DAY... GIVE HER A CREDIT CARD AND SHE'LL SHOP FOR A LIFETIME."
LORETTA
"LEROY'S FAMILY TREE IS A WEEPING WILLOW."
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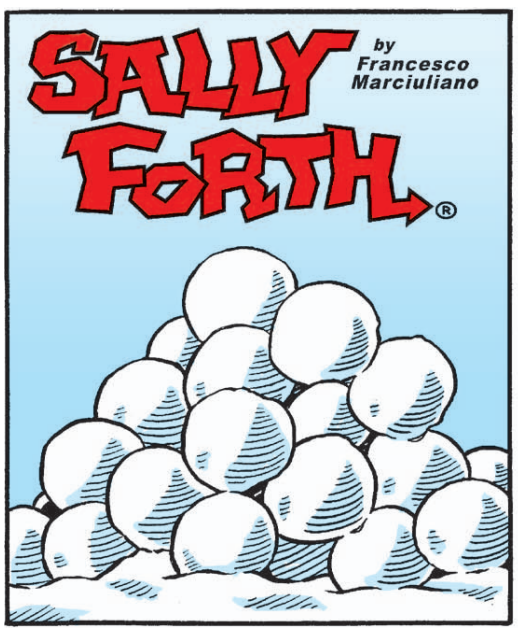
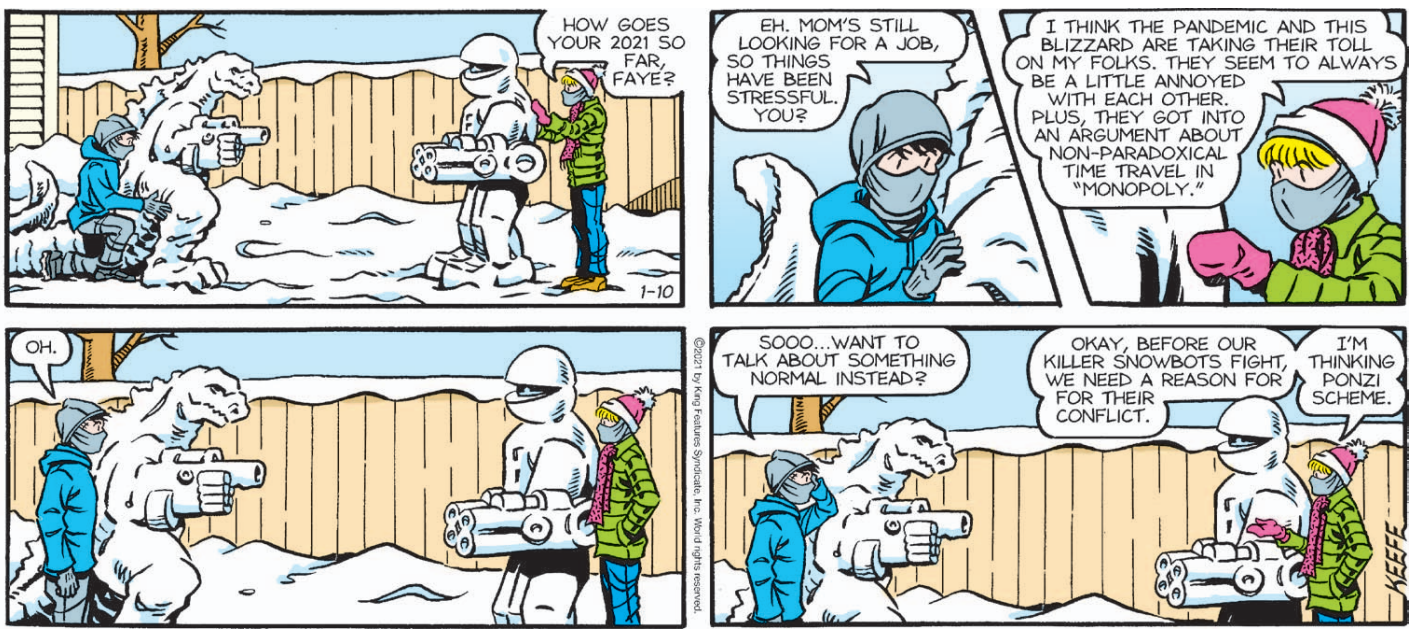
1-10
HOEST & REINER
"LET MOTHER IN, LEROY, AND STOP ASKING HER TO CONFIRM HUMANITY."
SPORTY MOTORS
"THE SECRET TO HAPPINESS, LORETTA, IS A STANDARD-SHIFT TRANSMISSION."
"YOU CAN EAT OFF THE FLOOR IN OUR KITCHEN... THAT'S BECAUSE LEROY STILL HASN'T EMPTIED THE DISHWASHER."

SALLY FORTH®

by Francesco Marciuliano




HOW GOES YOUR 2021 SO FAR, FAYE?
1-10
EH. MOM'S STILL LOOKING FOR A JOB, SO THINGS HAVE BEEN STRESSFUL. YOU?
I THINK THE PANDEMIC AND THIS BLIZZARD ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL ON MY FOLKS. THEY SEEM TO ALWAYS BE A LITTLE ANNOYED WITH EACH OTHER. PLUS, THEY GOT INTO AN ARGUMENT ABOUT NON-PARADOXICAL TIME TRAVEL IN "MONOPOLY."
OH.
SOOO...WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING NORMAL INSTEAD?
OKAY, BEFORE OUR KILLER SNOWBOTS FIGHT, WE NEED A REASON FOR FOR THEIR CONFLICT.
I'M THINKING PONZI SCHEME.
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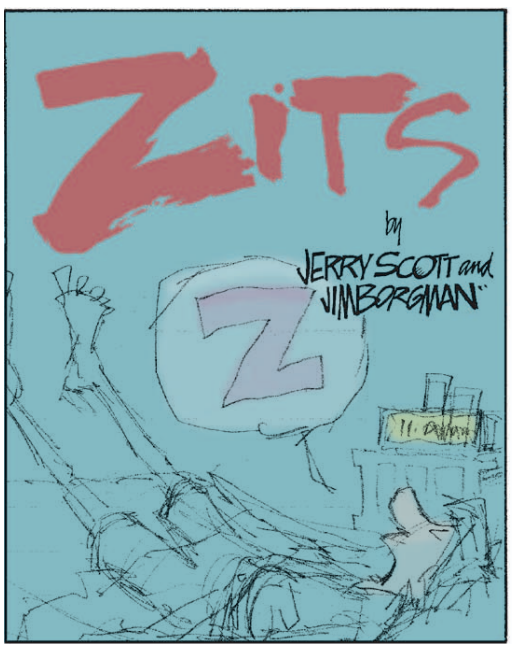
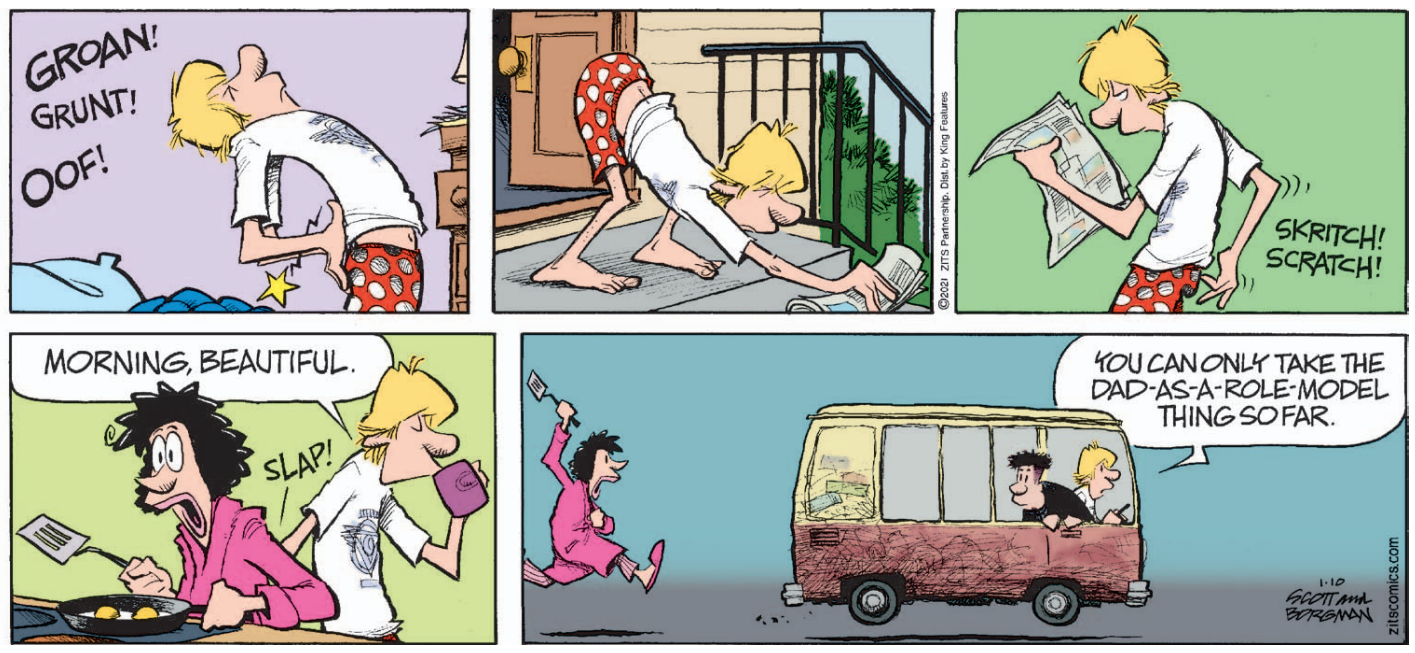
KEEFE

ZITS

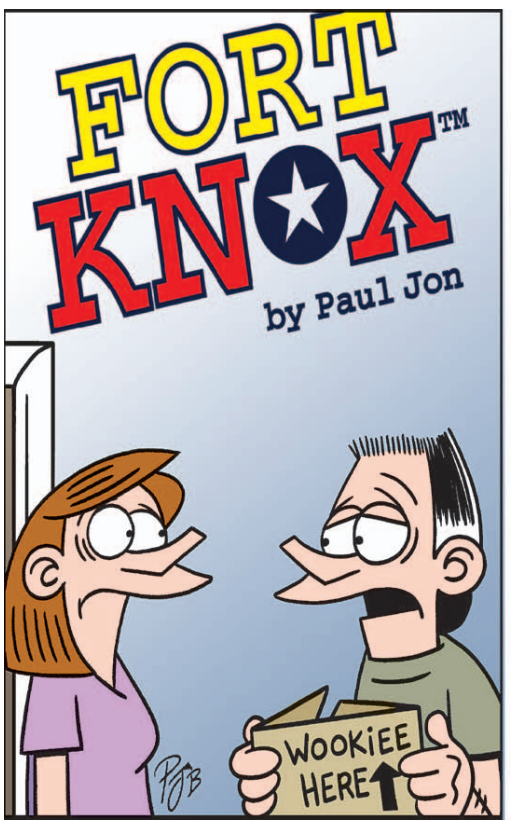
by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN

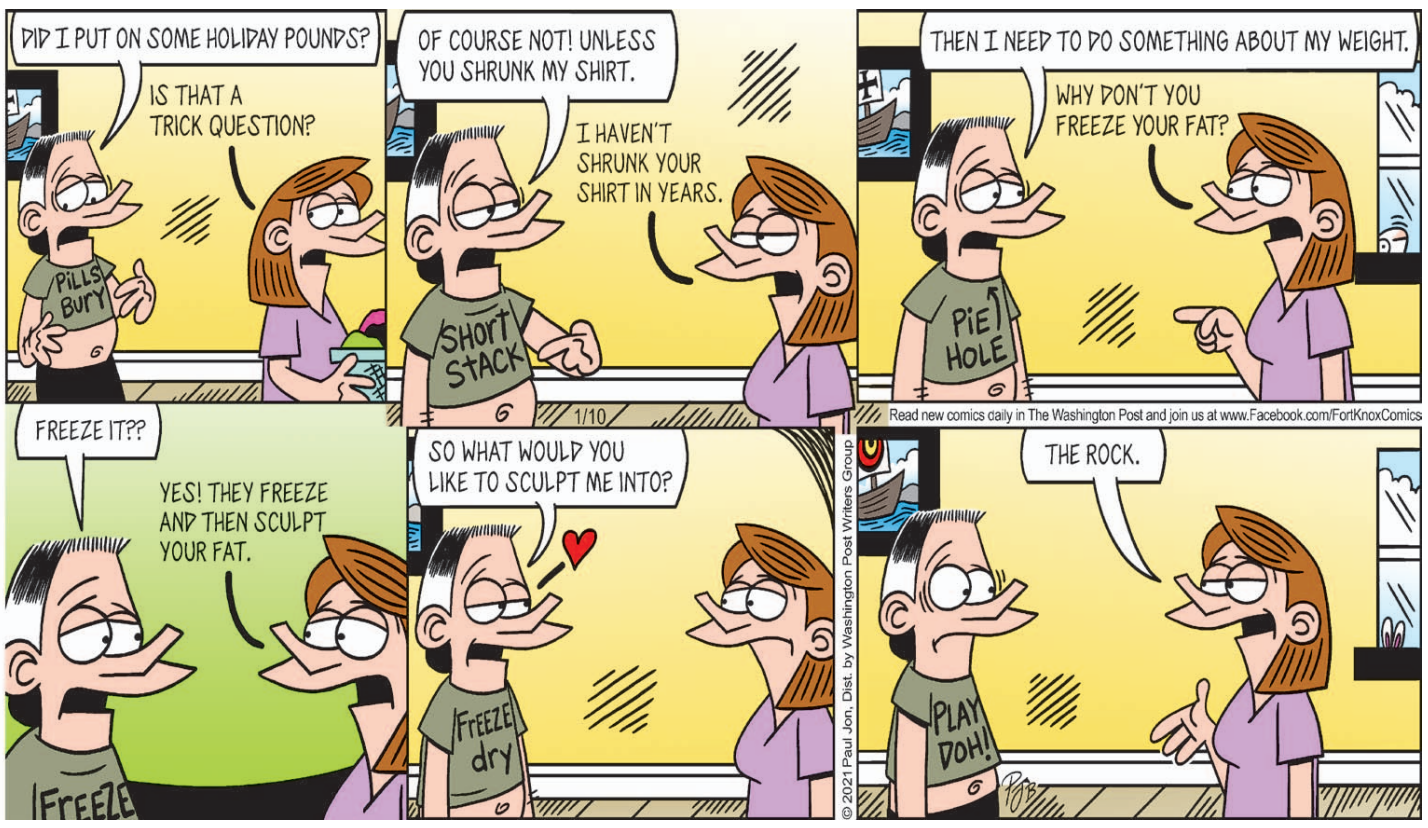




FORT KNOX™

by Paul Jon




DID I PUT ON SOME HOLIDAY POUNDS?
IS THAT A TRICK QUESTION?
PILLS BURY
OF COURSE NOT! UNLESS YOU SHRUNK MY SHIRT.
I HAVEN'T SHRUNK YOUR SHIRT IN YEARS.
SHORT STACK
1/10
THEN I NEED TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT MY WEIGHT.
WHY DON'T YOU FREEZE YOUR FAT?
PIE HOLE
FREEZE IT??
YES! THEY FREEZE AND THEN SCULPT YOUR FAT.
FREEZE
SO WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SCULPT ME INTO?
FREEZE dry
THE ROCK.
PLAY DOH!
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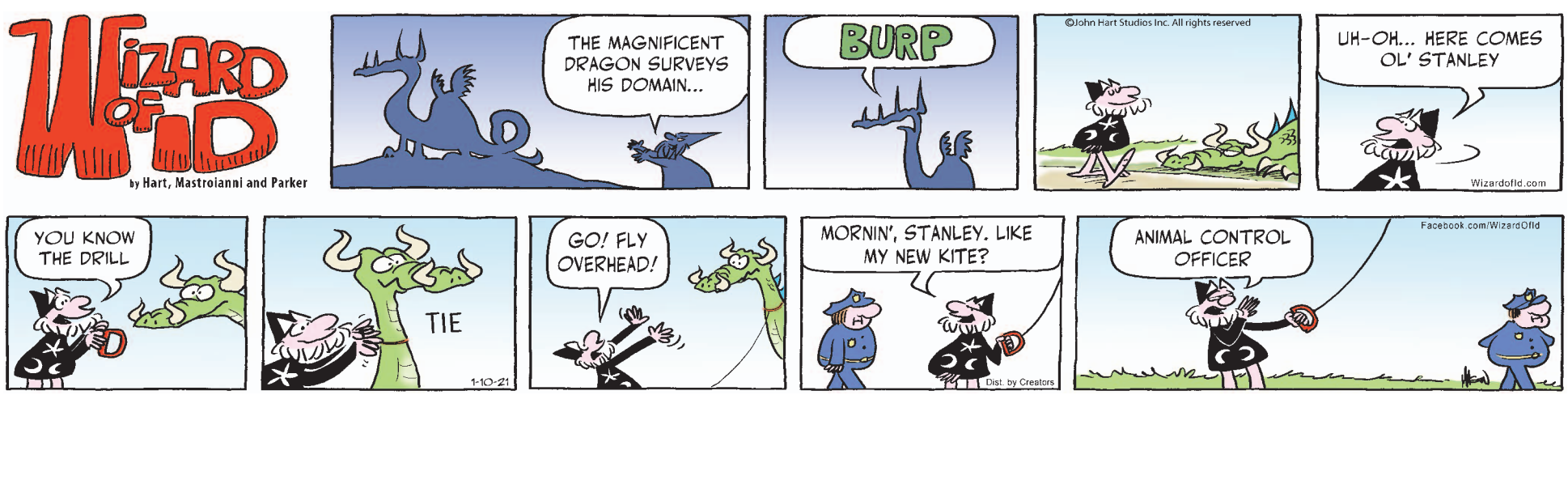
PJB

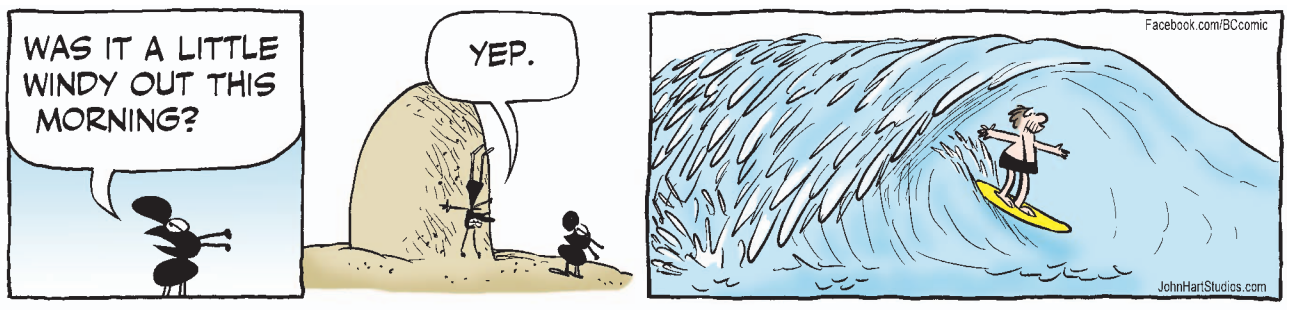
WIZARD OF ID

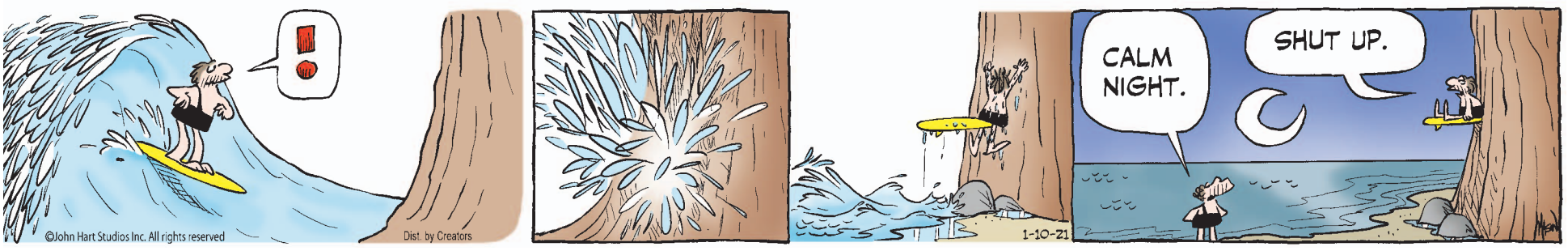
by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker



BC

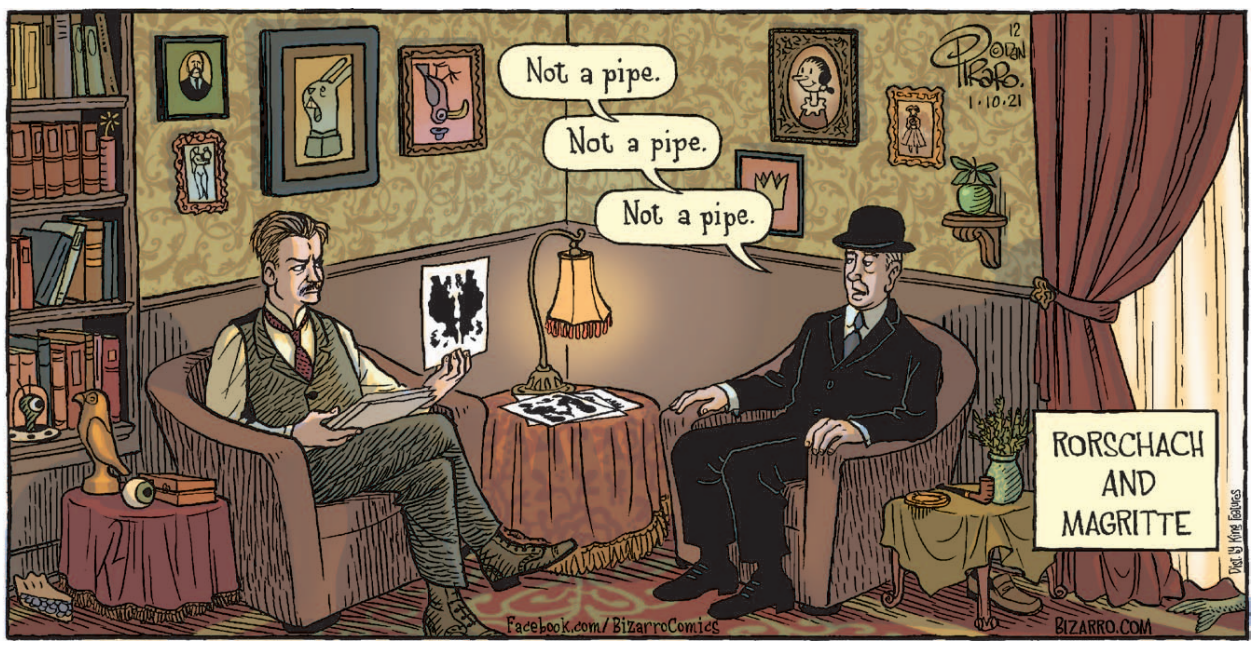
BY MASTROIANNI AND HART





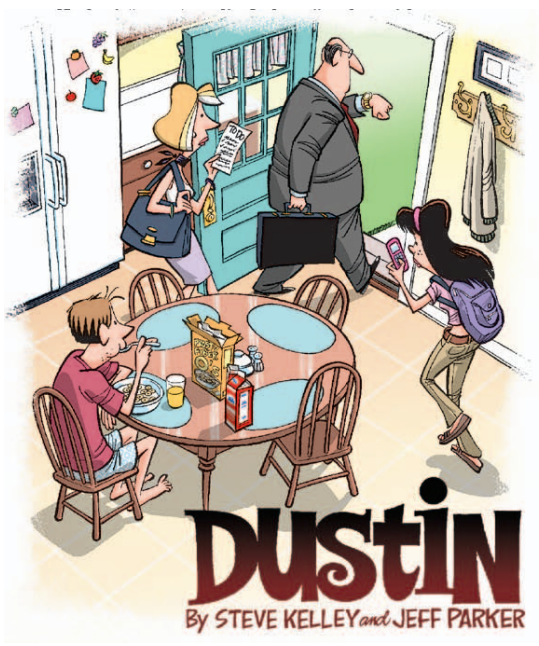
Bizarro

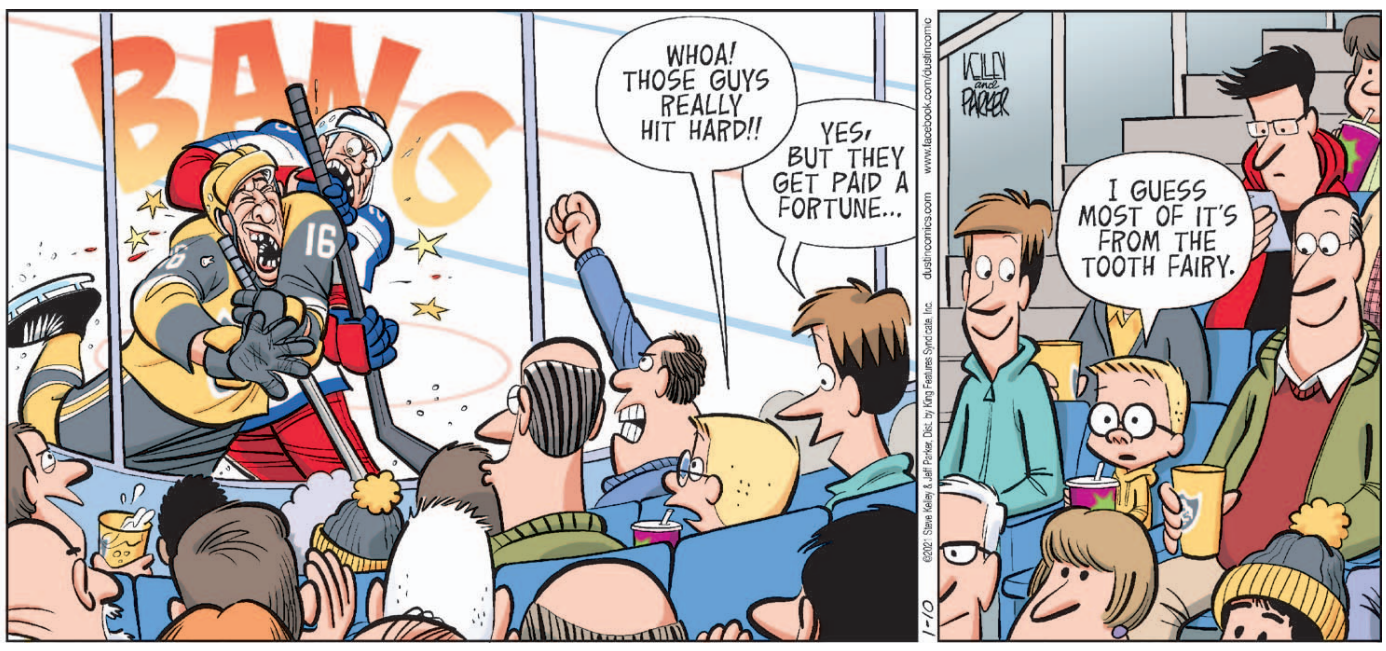
by Dan Piraro



Dustin

By STEVE KELLEY and JEFF PARKER




BANG
WHOA! THOSE GUYS REALLY HIT HARD!!
YES, BUT THEY GET PAID A FORTUNE...
16
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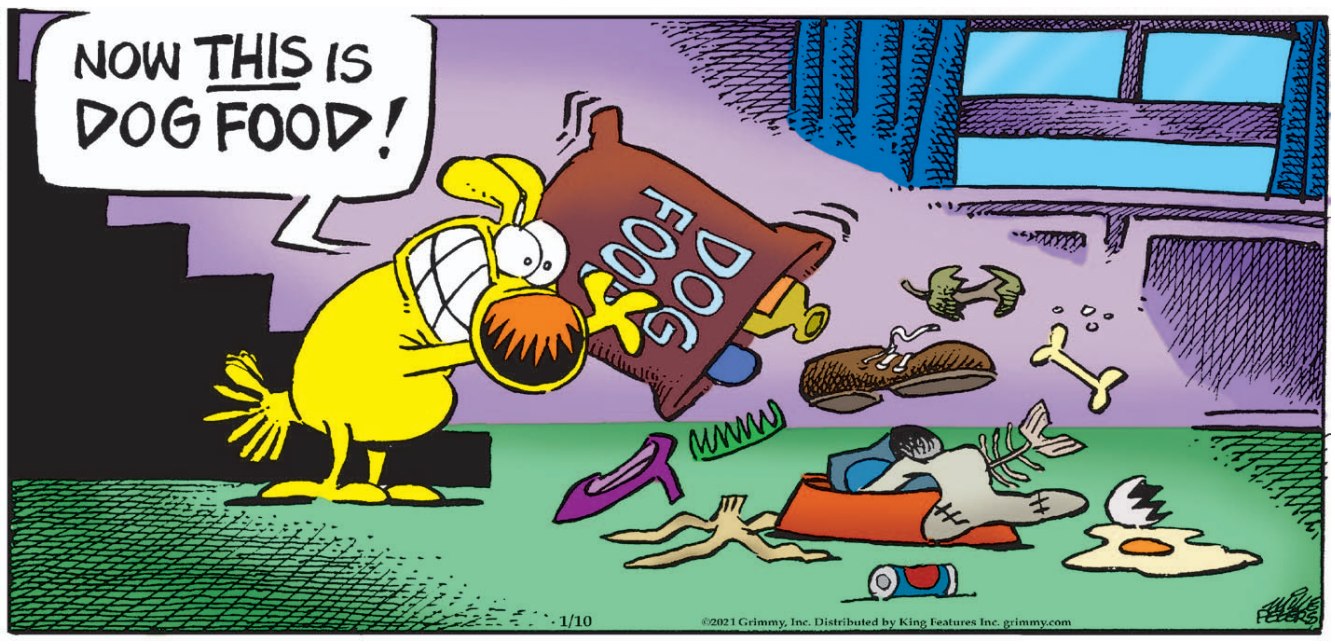
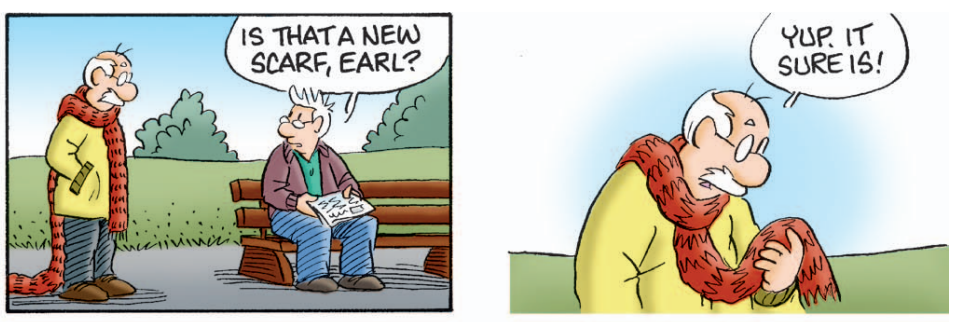
dustincomics.com
www.facebook.com/dustincomics
KELLY and PARKER
I GUESS MOST OF IT'S FROM THE TOOTH FAIRY.
1-10

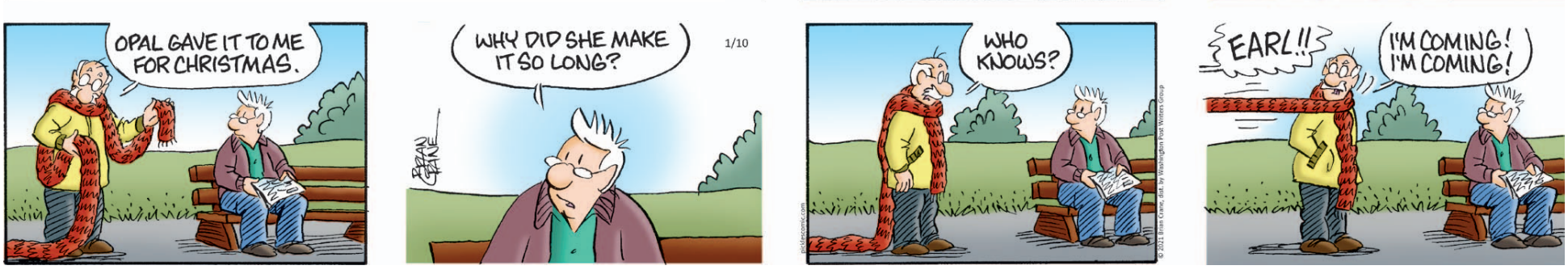
Mother Goose & Grimm



Pickles

by Brian Crane



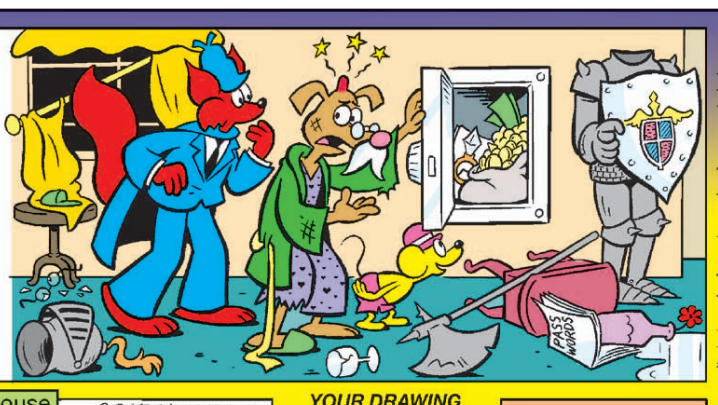


Slylock Fox and Comics for Kids

Bob Weber Jr.'s

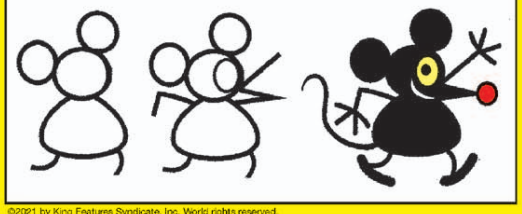
Sir Hound confronted and fought a burglar before fleeing his mansion for help. While he was away, the intruder found the notebook containing the safe's password. When Sir Hound returned with Slylock Fox, he opened the safe and discovered that its contents were intact. Why does Slylock suspect the burglar left without the valuables?

Solution -- Slylock noticed the burglar's broken eyeglasses. He suspects the thief could not read the password and left without opening the safe.



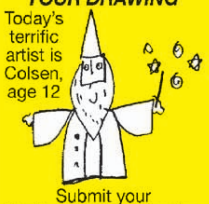
HOW TO DRAW a mouse

BOB WEBER JR and SR 1-10



YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Colsen, age 12



Submit your black-and-white drawing to **www.slylockfox.com**

Bears live in all parts of the world except for Antarctica, Africa and ...

a) North America
b) Australia
c) South America
d) Asia

Answer -- b)

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Freckles, butter, salt shaker, dog's eyebrow, boy's ear and chair.

For more Spot Six Differences, Slylock Fox and other puzzles and comics go to **www.slylockfox.com**

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